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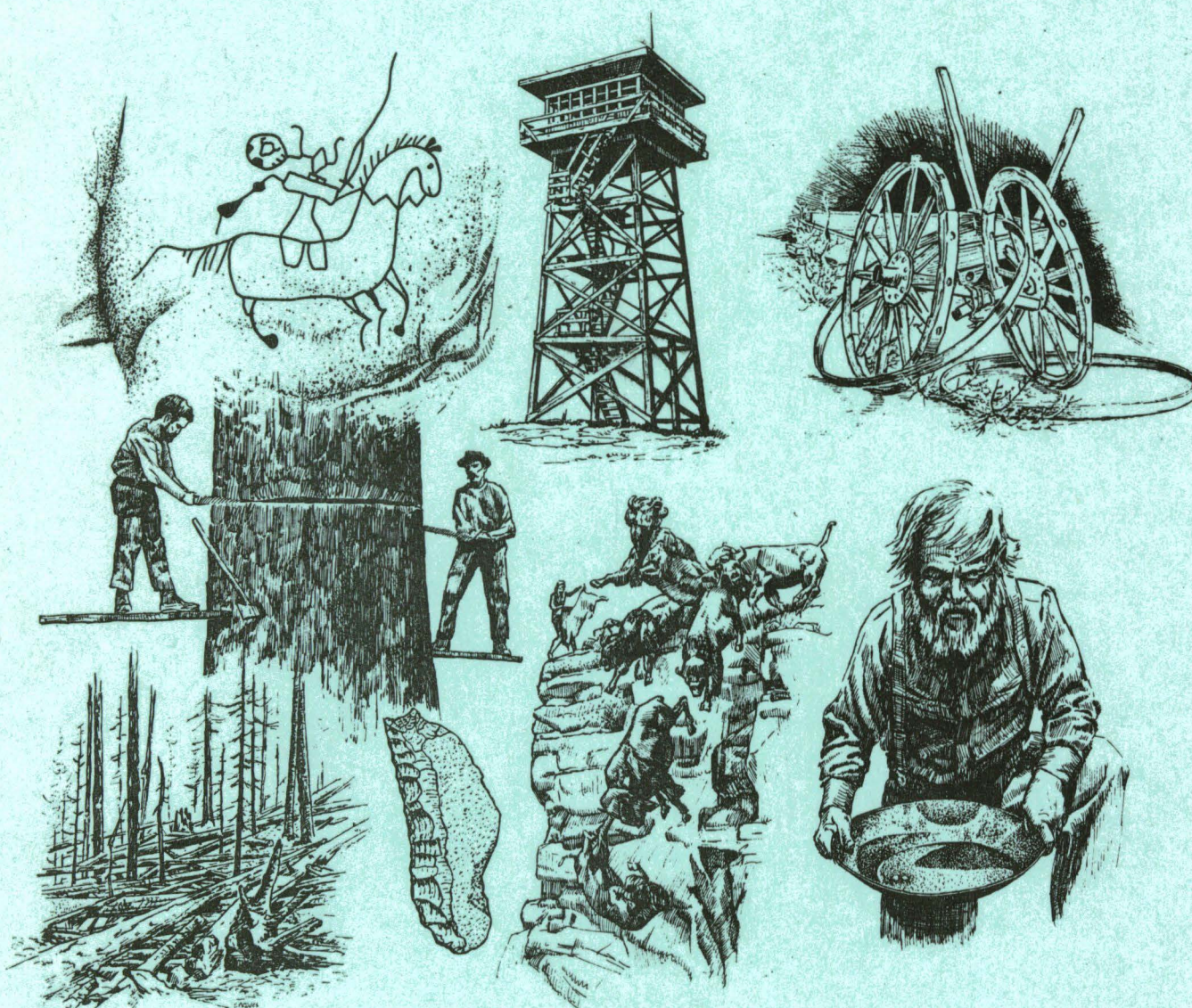
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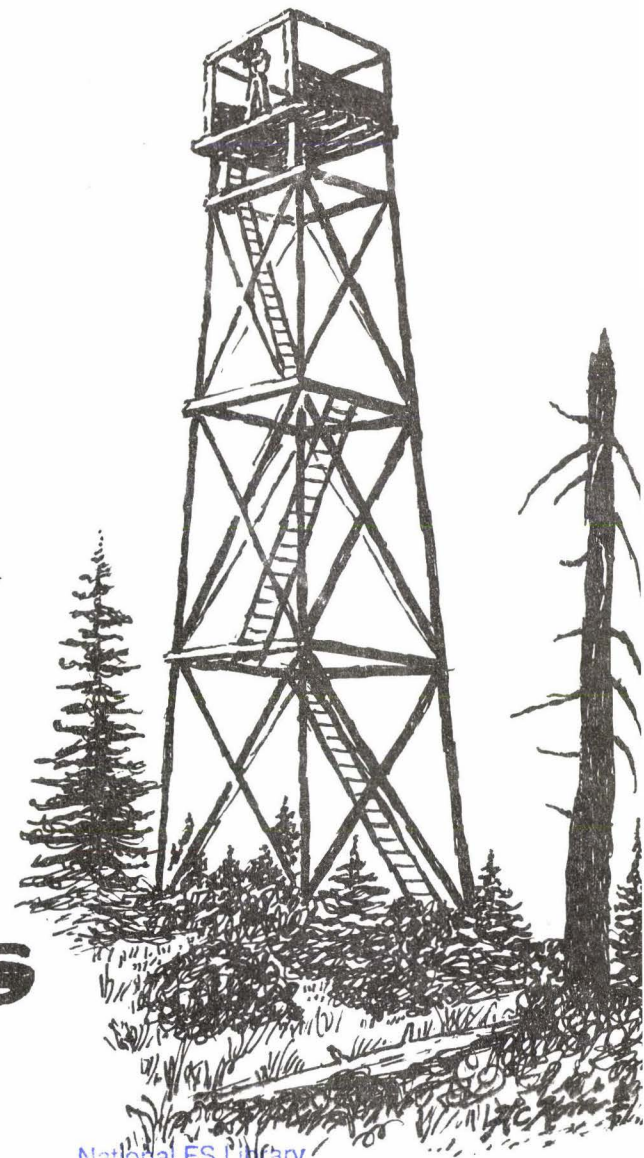
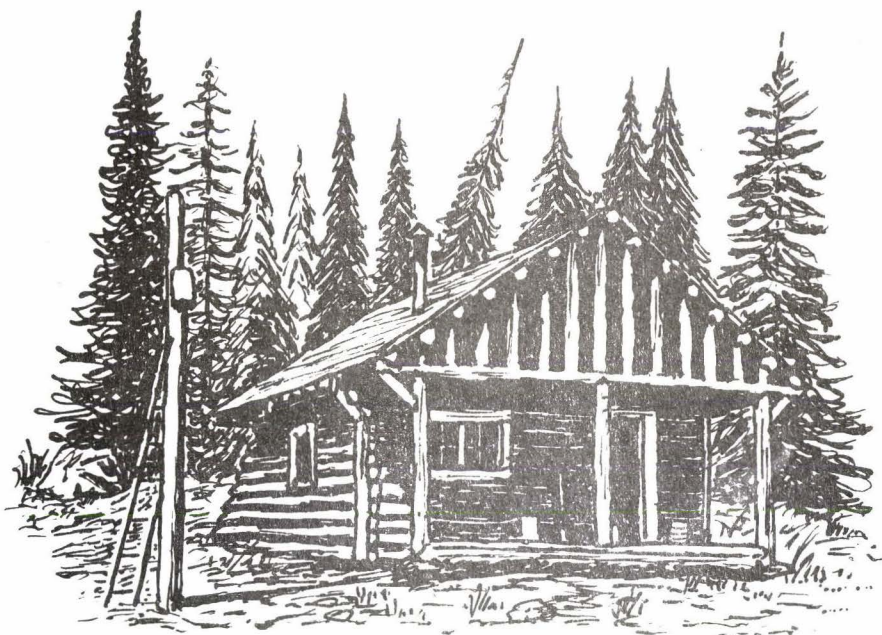
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Cultural Resources

Historic Facilities of the Lochsa Ranger District

Louis F. Hartig





Historic Facilities

of the
**Lochsa
Ranger
District**

by **LOUIE HARTIG**

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CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST

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A HISTORICAL REVIEW
of the
ADMINISTRATIVE, PROTECTION & MANAGEMENT
facilities on the
LOCHSA RANGER DISTRICT
CLEARWATER NATIONAL FOREST
1904 - 1966



District Ranger Louis F. Hartig
Walde Mtn. Lookout 1963

by:
Louis F. Hartig
District Ranger, 1943-1966
June, 1981

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-INTRODUCTION-

The remote towers and cabins, like the people who built and manned them, and the foot smokechaser who, when he shouldered his 35 pound firepack and left his lonely post to run down a smoke, completely cut off from communication with his fellows, live mainly in the memories of an ever-dwindling minority. It is my intention to preserve herein, bits and pieces of the history of these disappearing Forest Service outposts on the Lochsa Ranger District.

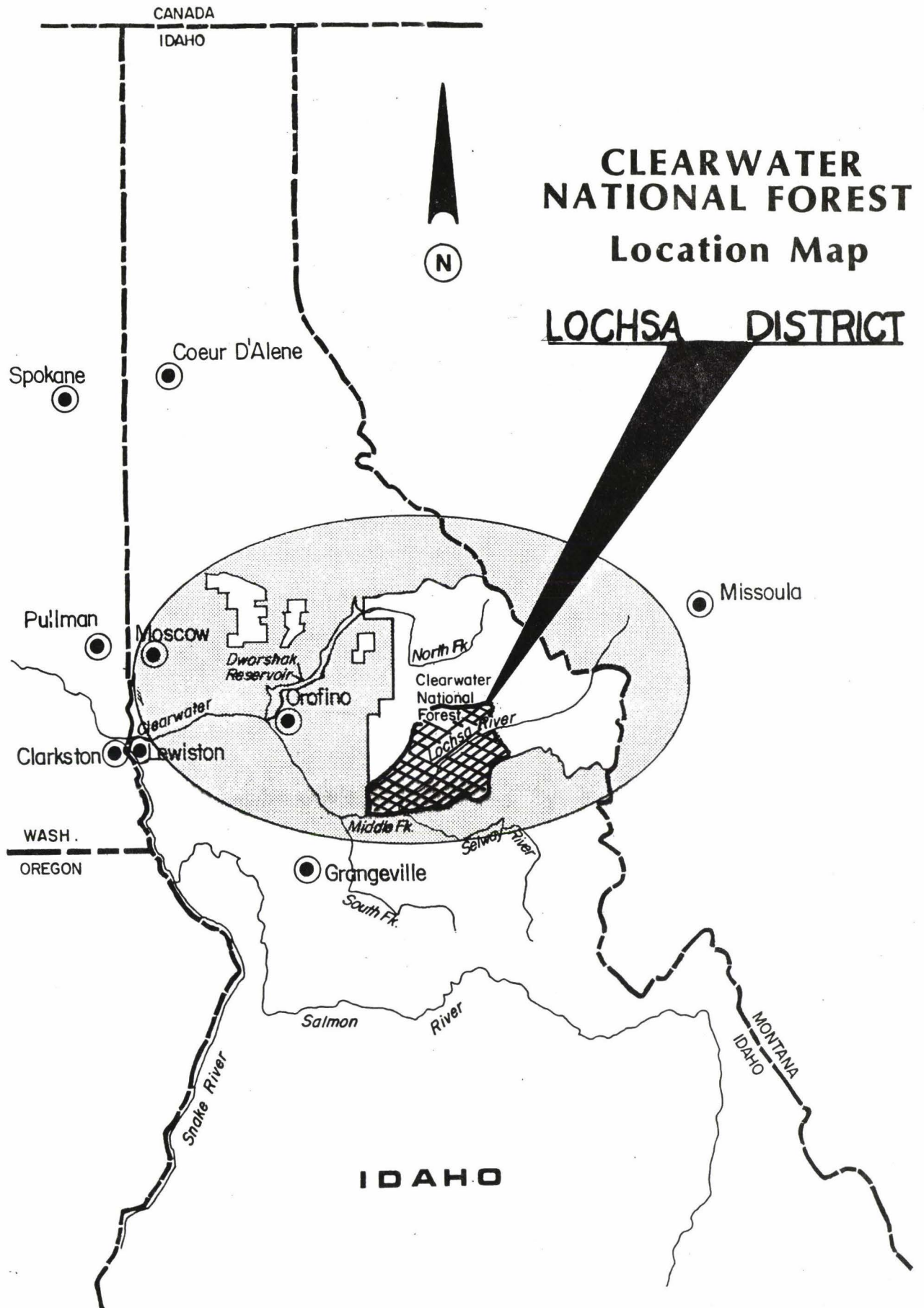
Early one July morning in 1936, while on a visit to Castle Butte, the number of white painted lookout cabins glistening in the rising sun aroused my curiosity. I counted all that were visible from the cabin cupola. As I remember the count came to about 22, most of them manned. With the rise and demise of these structures on the forest in a period of about 60 years an era has truly come and gone.

Information for the record has been obtained from former Forest Service people who have been associated with the present Lochsa Ranger District, from district investment records, old maps, diaries, other records and from my personal knowledge of events. I began gathering information in a desultory way in 1961, but sometimes did nothing on the record for 5 or 6 years at a stretch.

A list of major contributors to the work is included. Some of them I pestered seemingly to the end of their patience, but they always responded cheerfully and even enthusiastically. Without their cooperation, there would have been no record. Photo credits are given to those who contributed pictures.

In his 1904-05 diary, Ranger James Stuart refers to Forest Service cabins by number rather than name. He mentions cabin #1 located at the site where Number One Ranger Station was developed, cabin #3 in the Lowell vicinity, though the exact location is not given and cabin #6 at Glover Saddle. It can be inferred that somewhere on the forest were cabins #2, 4 and 5 but their location remains unknown.

Since the origin of Forest Reserves and National Forests, boundary and name changes have placed the present Lochsa District on several different administrative units. As an aid in following the record they are listed:



<u>Date</u>	<u>Unit Name</u>
Feb. 22, 1897-Mar. 3, 1907	Bitterroot (Idaho) Forest Reserve, Northern Division (See Figure 1)
Mar. 4, 1907-June 30, 1908	Bitterroot National Forest
July 1, 1908-June 30, 1911	Clearwater National Forest
July 1, 1911-Oct. 29, 1934	Selway National Forest
Oct. 30, 1934-June 30, 1956	Part Clearwater, part Nezperce National Forests
July 1, 1956-Present	Clearwater National Forest

The Forest Supervisor's office was established at Kooskia in 1897 and remained there until abandoned in 1934 when the Selway Forest went out of existence.

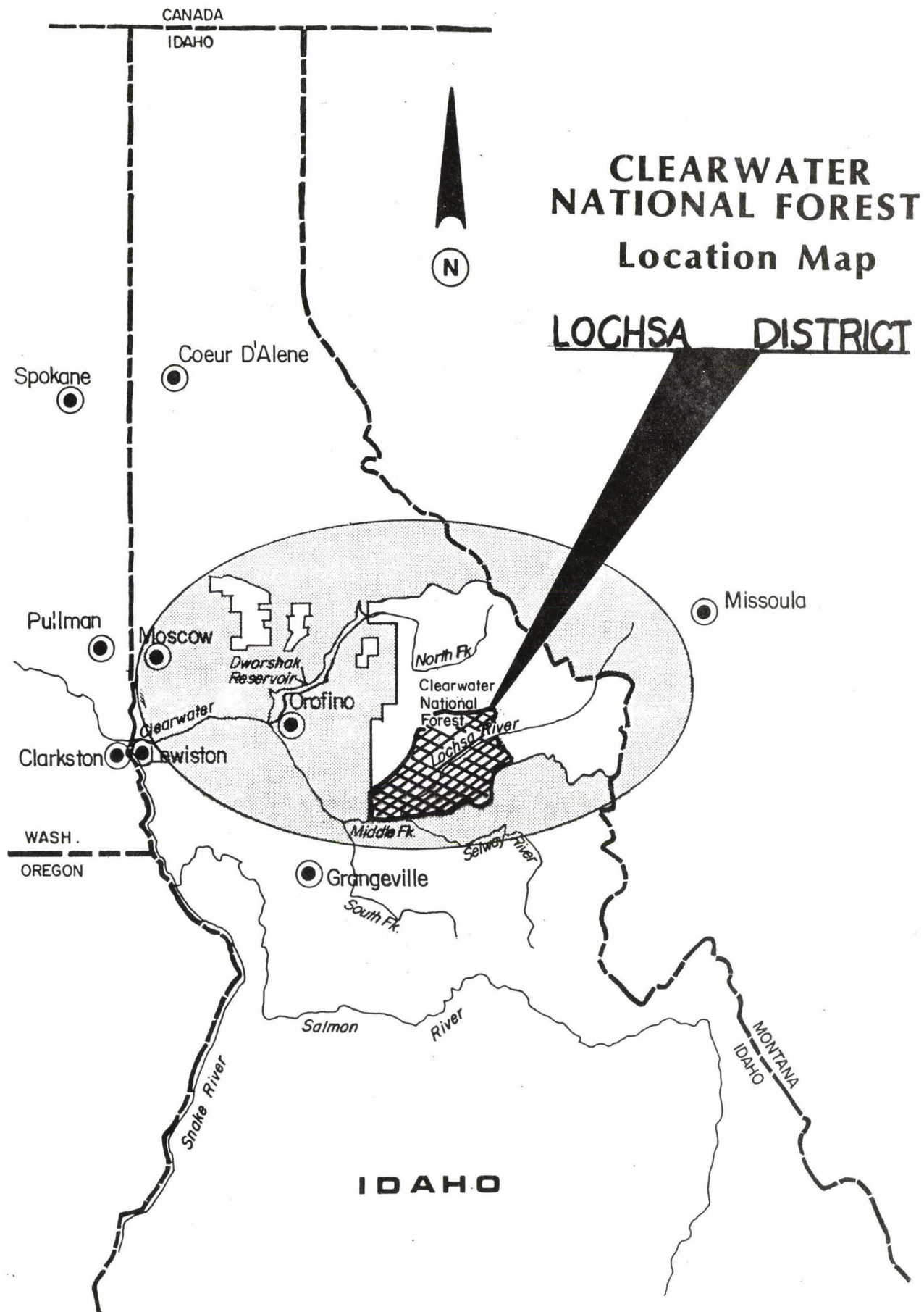
And finally, if no errors crop up in this record, it will no doubt be the first completely accurate history ever written.

Figure 2 shows the administrative boundary changes.

A location map of the improvements is found in Appendix, item i.

Louis F. Hartig,
Lochsa District Ranger, 1943-1966
Clearwater National Forest

June, 1981



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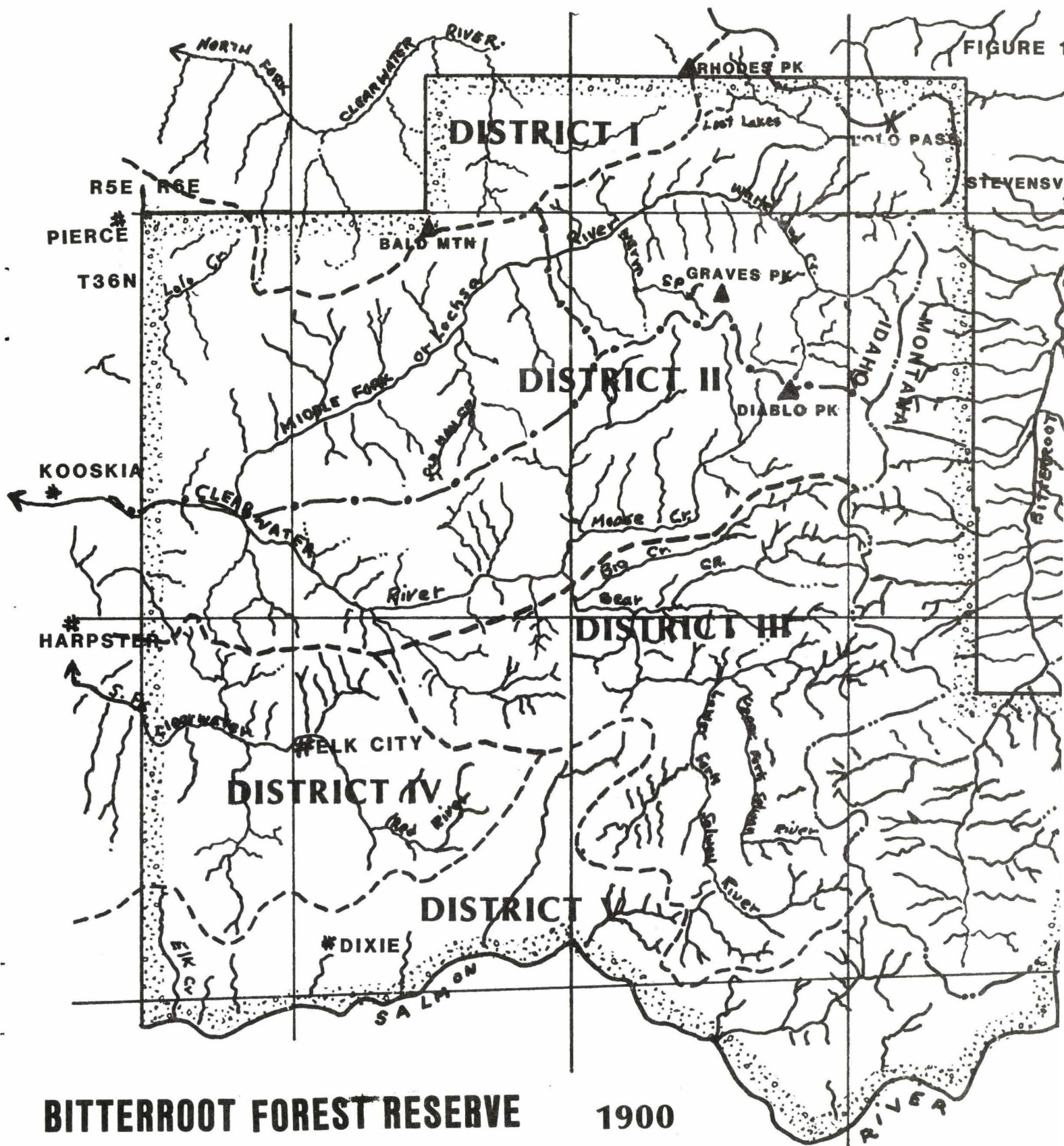
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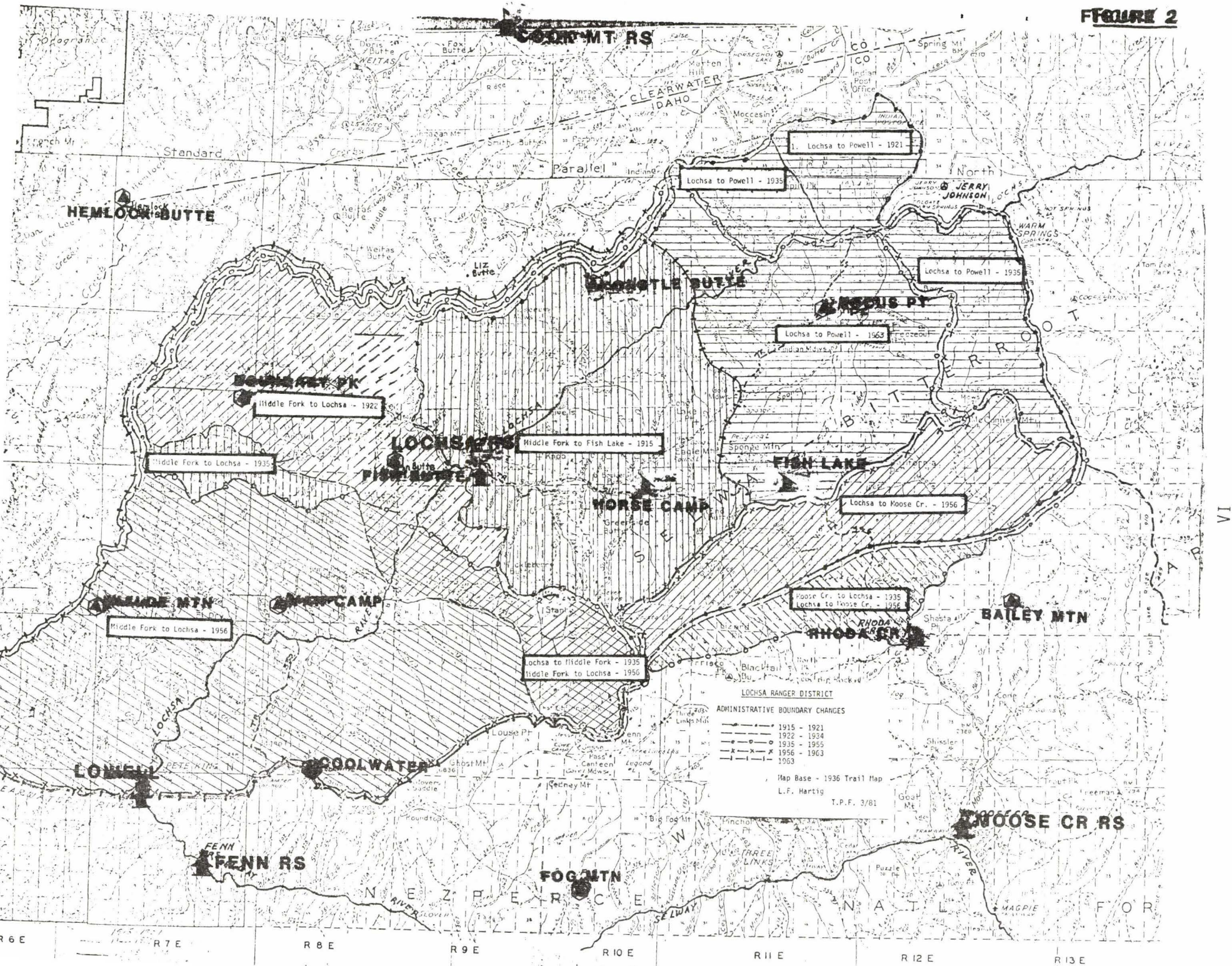


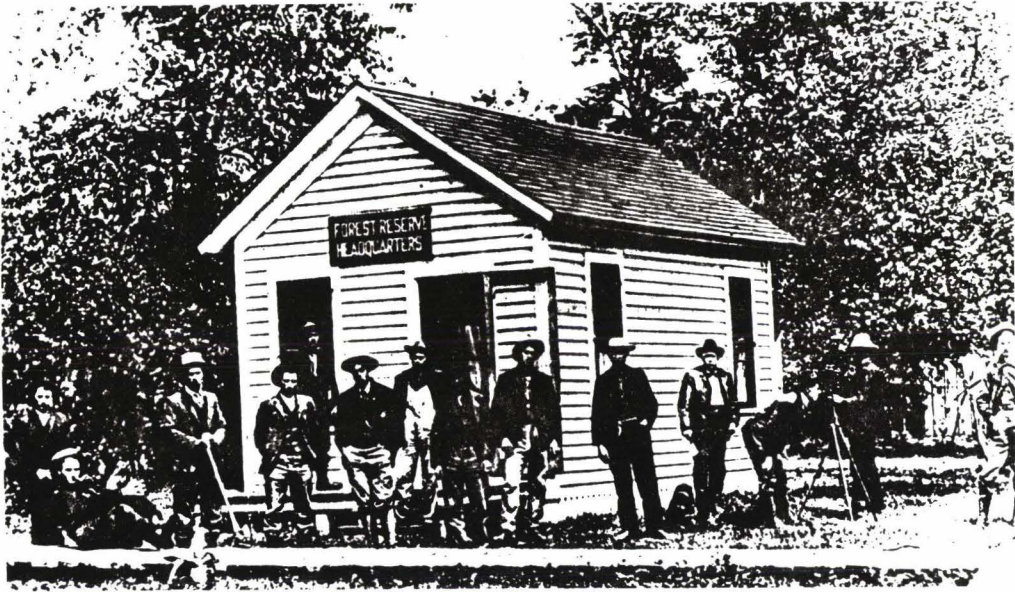
BITTERROOT FOREST RESERVE

1900

- RESERVE BDRY
- DISTRICT BDRY (RESERVE)
- DISTRICT BDRY (PRESENT)

FIGURE 2





Bitterroot Forest Reserve Headquarters, Kooskia, ID 1906



U.S. Forest Service headquarters, Kooskia, ID 1907 or '08

L - R Unknown, Jack Fitting, Lewis Harrington, F.A. Fenn, Unknown F.S. Clerk.

The IDAHO portion of the Bitterroot Forest was in existence from March 3, 1907 to June 30, 1908. (L. Hartig)

The Selway National Forest was proclaimed June 29, 1911 and became effective July 1, 1911. (L. Hartig)

Ant Hill Lookout. SWSW Sec. 29, Twp. 35N., R.8E. Elev. 4439'

In 1931 Bill Dennison and Fred Baldwin, under the direction of Lochsa District Ranger Fred Shaner built trail #225 from Fish Creek to Ant Hill. As soon as the trail was passable, carpenters Earnest Hartman and Harry Chenoweth set up a camp near the point and began work on the 10 foot high log tower while packers moved in hardware, windows and pre-cut lumber for an L-4 lookout cabin. 1/

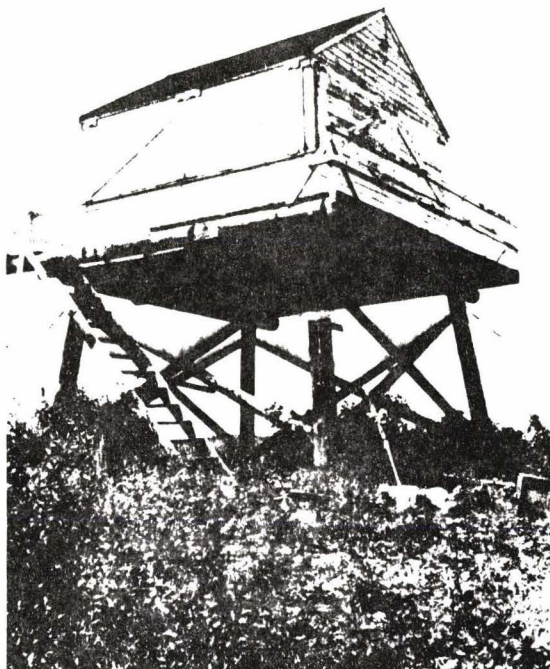
The site selected for the tower was at a point where the ridge drops off sharply in a westerly direction into Ant Creek. The two carpenters poured the four concrete piers on which the tower would stand, cut and skidded logs for the structure, and began setting it up.

After the tower was completed, the cabin was assembled atop it in short order. Whether it was manned for the remainder of the season is not known. It is known that Hank Weber held down the lookout position there in 1931, '32 and '33. Following the 1933 season, Ant Hill was abandoned. Seen area from lookouts established at Boundary Peak and Frenchman Butte that year pretty much duplicated what could be seen from Ant Hill.

The deserted tower stood with rotting timbers and peeling paint until 1946 when it was condemned and burned during a forest-wide cleanup of surplus buildings. The site of the tower can be located by looking for the concrete piers to which the 4 legs were anchored. When a tower was destroyed, the piers were usually left intact.

(Source-Shaner, Baldwin, Hartman, Roy Lewis, Russell Stadtman, Hartig)

1/ See Appendix; Item ii



Ant Hill 1938

ANT HILL LOOKOUT - 1938

photo by: Daland Broker

Bald Mountain Ranger Station. NE Sec. 19, Twp. 36N., R. 10E. E1. *6000'

In the spring of 1910, newly appointed Ranger Roy Monroe, riding a saddle horse and with camp gear loaded on a pack horse, left Darby, Montana and headed for Kooskia, Idaho where he was to report to Forest Supervisor Major Frank Fenn for duty assignment. His route lay via Lolo Hot Springs and the Lolo Trail to Walde Mountain. From Walde he followed a trail that led to Pete King and down river to Kooskia. He found Fenn's office in a small two room frame building on the east bank of the South Fork of the Clearwater River. A bridge approach now covers the site.

Monroe was assigned a small crew including brothers Art and Ed Bowles and instructed to back-track to Bald Mountain, build a ranger station and assume responsibility for administration of the adjacent area. The extent of his unit is not known, and little is known of his summer activities but in addition to what must have been a busy fire season, Ranger Monroe did get his "Ranger Station" built. The ranger station, located near the mountain top, was a one room log cabin with a split shake covered roof that projected over a door in one end. Cooking was done over a campfire in front of the building. Water was obtained from a small, nearby stream.

On July 1, 1911, a proclamation dated June 29, 1911 became effective and the huge Clearwater National Forest was divided into two smaller more manageable units. One unit retained the Clearwater name and a supervisor's office was established at Orofino, Idaho. The second unit was named Selway National Forest and retained the supervisor's office at Kooskia, Idaho with Frank Fenn as supervisor. In the shuffle, Bald Mountain Ranger Station, located just south of the Lolo Trail (The boundary between the two forests) ended up on the Selway Forest. Just how the Selway part of Bald Mountain Ranger District was administered after the Forest division is not known. It is known that in 1914 the Bald Mountain area between Lolo Trail and Lochsa River as far eastward as Indian Post Office was attached to Middlefork District.

Following creation of the Selway National Forest, Ranger Monroe was transferred to the new Clearwater Forest and put in charge of Cook Mountain Ranger District, a part of which no doubt had been under his jurisdiction since 1910. In his new assignment, Monroe out of necessity continued use of Bald Mountain Ranger Station as a part-time headquarters until his resignation from the Forest Service in 1913. The reason being that development at the Cook Mountain site did not get under way until 1914 when then Ranger Andy Devon had firefighters cut logs for a cabin which was erected the next year. Also Cook Mountain was without communication until a telephone line from Twelve Mile Saddle to the station was completed in 1916.

When asked by letter where her husband was stationed 1910 to 1913 Bessie Monroe replied "Bald Mountain was his station . . . He spent 4 fire seasons in that district . . . Fall and winter 1910-11 at Goddard Bar" She also spent the two

* Approximate elevation

winters at Goddard Bar. In an article that Mrs. Monroe wrote for the Daily Ravalli Republican paper in 1970, she tells about visiting her husband at his summer camp in 1912. During the visit he took her to Bald Mountain to show her the cabin that he had built in 1910. She does not indicate where the camp was located but does say that he had a five man crew. At the time of the visit she lived at Weippe, Idaho, so it would seem that Monroe wintered in that area.

In 1912 a second and larger Forest Service cabin was built at Bald Mountain. Two Ellis brothers of Lewiston, Idaho were the carpenters. The new cabin about 15x20 feet in size, was located about a hundred feet or so up the hill from the Monroe building. It was of peeled log construction with a door in one side and a window in one end. A shake covered roof extended out over the window a few feet with the space underneath used for storage. In 1914 the cabin had a puncheon floor, double deck bunk, wood burning cook stove and a table, all of which may have been installed when the cabin was built. A small stream that originated a short distance up the hill ran back of the cabin to provide a water source. Across the trail below the cabin a horse corral was built with access to the stream.

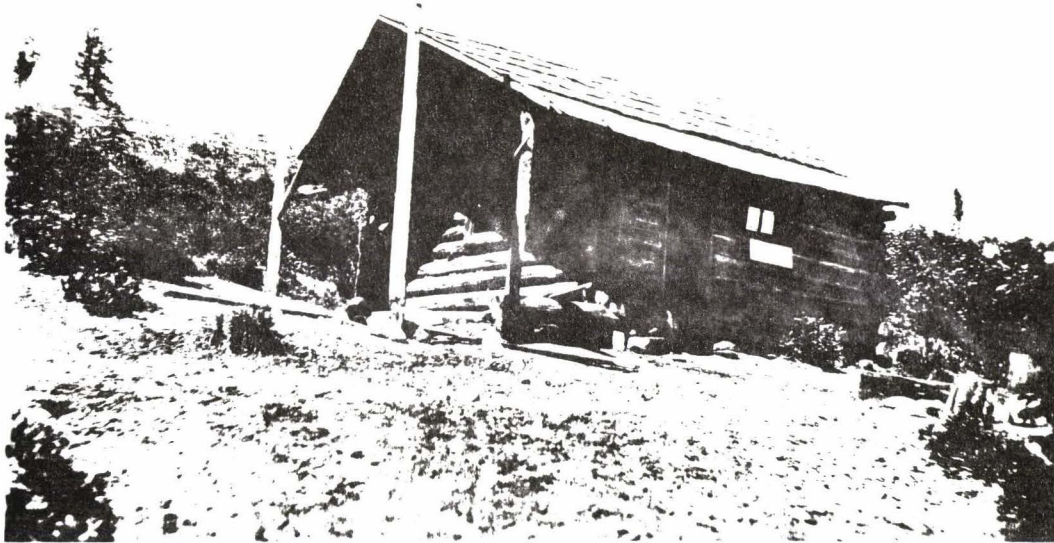
The reason for putting up a new cabin at Bald Mtn. rather than building on the Cook Mtn. site is open to conjecture. The fact that a trail and telephone line from Twelve Mile Saddle to Cook Mtn. were in the building stage and still needed a couple of years before completion plus the need for a more habitable cabin near the good pasture at Bald Mtn. may have had some bearing on the decision to build there. What ever the actual reason was it will likely never be known.

When the Renshaw brothers were on their way to man Castle Butte for the 1914 season they first saw the cabin. It was not in use on a regular basis but was occupied frequently by passing Forest Service personnel who had occasion to spend a night or so there. When the Renshaws and their stock arrived at the cabin to spend the night they found Cook Mtn. District Ranger Andy Devon already in occupancy.

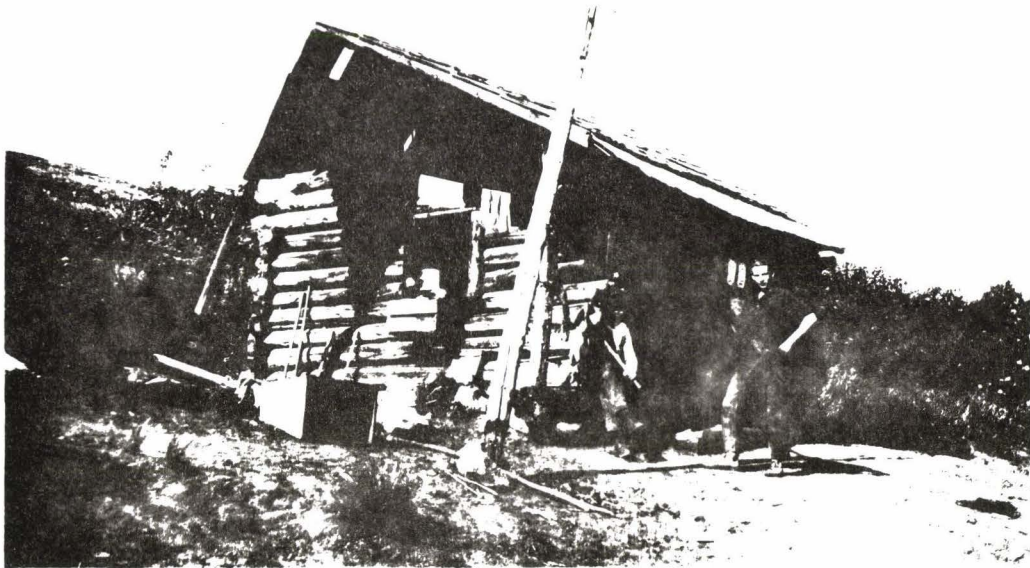
By 1927 the cabin had outlived any useful need so it was destroyed and condemned (A backward procedure) by Ranger Ralph Hand. Disposition of Ranger Monroe's original cabin has not been determined. It disappeared from the scene sometime between 1916 and 1927.

The two cabins were located on the first stream east of the present Lewis-Clark sign on the road around Bald Mountain. The site of the second cabin is about 100 feet above the road on the east side of the creek. The remains are easily visible.

(Source-Ed Gilroy, Bessie Monroe, Woldord Renshaw, Ralph Hand, Paul Wohlen, Ralph Space)



BALD MTN. CABIN (R.S.) 1922
Photo by: Elmer Montgomery



BALD MTN. CABIN (R.S.) 1924
Photo: Ralph Space

Bald Mtn. Creek Cabin Sec.8,Twp.34n.,R.10E. Elev.*2300'

Located on the barren alluvial fan of Bald Mtn. Creek near its mouth and on the down river side, this 8x10" frame game study cabin was built in 1935 under the direction of ranger Leroy L. Lewis. It was equipped with a double-decked steel bunk, cook stove, table and two chairs.

This type of cabin was designed as shelter for two men doing winter game study work. There was just room enough in it for two men provided they were on good terms with one another.

The frame was of 2x4s with sills and joists laid on the ground. Two layers of rough lumber sheeting with tar paper between were nailed vertically to the frame. Some times batten was nailed over the cracks between boards. There was a window on each side and the roof was covered either with tar paper or hand split cedar shakes. Usually there was a trap door in the floor leading to a small cellar under the cabin.

The cabins had a short life expectancy, however they served well the purpose intended. Even in the coldest weather a door or window had to be left ajar while there was a fire in the stove. Though seldom used, the Bald Mtn. Creek cabin remained in its lonely setting until the highway reached there in 1955. It was then destroyed.

Similar cabins were built at about the same time at Hungry Cr. (Obia Cr. Cabin) and on Boulder Cr. at the mouth of Huckleberry Cr. (Huckleberry Cabin).

Source Roy Lewis, L. Hartig



BALD MTN. CR. CABIN 1935
Photo by: Jack Godwin

Barren Hill Lookout. S½ Sec.29, Twp.34N.,R.10E. Elev. 6215'

An L-4 cabin on a 10 foot high log tower was built on Barren Hill by the Selway National Forest in 1931 at a cost of \$791.90. Slim Tunstill and Rufus Robinson of the Moose Creek District were the carpenters. Tunstill was head carpenter and was an oldtimer on the Selway Forest. In 1924 he was in charge of Bear Mountain tower construction for Ranger Ralph Hand and in 1933 he built Grouse Point tower for Ranger Roy Lewis.

Robinson was lookout at Barren Hill in 1932 and in 1934 he was in charge of Boundary Peak tower construction for Ranger Roy Lewis on the Lochsa Ranger District. An interesting sidelight regarding Rufus Robinson is that he was among the very first group of men selected for smokejumper training when that organization was initiated in 1940. According to Albert Cochrell, Robinson and Earl Cooley made the first jump on an actual fire in Martin Creek on the Nezperce Forest on July 12, 1940.

Following the Selway National Forest split-up in 1934 Barren Hill ended up inside the boundary of the Lochsa District and although physical improvements were taken up and carried on Lochsa District Investment Records, the District had little active part in administration of the area. It was almost immediately put under jurisdiction of the Bitterroot National Forest by cooperative agreement. The agreement remained in effect as far as I remember until 1956 when further boundary adjustment gave Rhoda, Wounded Doe and the North Fork of Moose Creeks to the Nezperce National Forest.

Glenn McHone was lookout at Barren Hill in 1933 and 34 when it was administered by Moose Creek District of the Selway Forest. No one whom I have contacted knows when the point was last manned but it was after 1947. According to a 1947 Daily Log and Diary kept at Lochsa Station, Assistant Supervisor Dave Kyle and I made an overnight stay with the lookout on August 13, 1947. Final disposition of the structure has not been determined.

(Source-Glenn McHone, Lochsa Investment Records, Hartig)

Bear Mtn. Lookout. NESW Sec. 26, Twp. 36N., R. 12 E. Elev. 7184'

Beargrass Mtn., as this feature was originally known, was first manned as a lookout in 1919 when Ranger Fitz Eagan moved two men with a tent camp to the point. Eagan who was putting in his last year as Fish Lake District Ranger had a seldom used tent headquarters at Castle Butte.

In 1920 Acting District Ranger Henry Nicol, also with a tent R.S. at Castle Butte, again placed two men on the point. In 1921, newly appointed Fish Lake Ranger Elmer Walde made his headquarters at the old Lou Fitting cabin at Fish Lake. A trail and telephone line up Boulder Creek were completed to Fish Lake that year. Under direction of Walde the lookout and smokechaser at Bear Mtn. cut logs for a cabin at the point in 1921. This year, also, the area between Weir Creek and Post-Office Creek was transferred from the Lochsa to the Powell District.

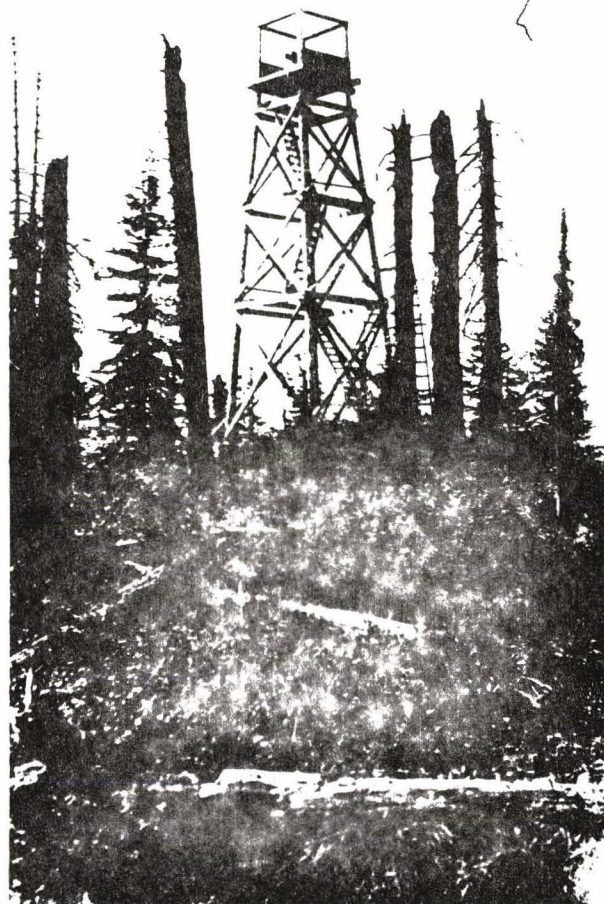
In 1922, Al Kolmorgan, another new Fish Lake District Ranger with headquarters at a new station at Boulder Flat on the Lochsa River, moved Charley Kinnick and Jess Upham to Beargrass where they erected the log building that served as lookout quarters there for many years. Telephone communication between Beargrass and Boulder Flat R.S. was established in 1923.

In 1924, Slim Tunstill, working for Ranger Ralph Hand, helped build a 40 foot high log tower with an open observatory at Beargrass. Several years later a glass enclosed observatory was added.

When the Selway Forest was split up following the 1934 fire, Bear Mountain, McConnell Mountain and all the area between the ridge they are on and Warm Springs Creek were transferred from Lochsa to the Powell District. The entire Fish Lake Creek drainage remained on the Lochsa District.

In later years, a new tower with cabin were built at Bear Mtn. but details are not known to the writer. Nor is it known when or if the point was ever abandoned. The Selway Forest was blessed with two Beargrass mountains. To eliminate confusion the grass was dropped from this one.

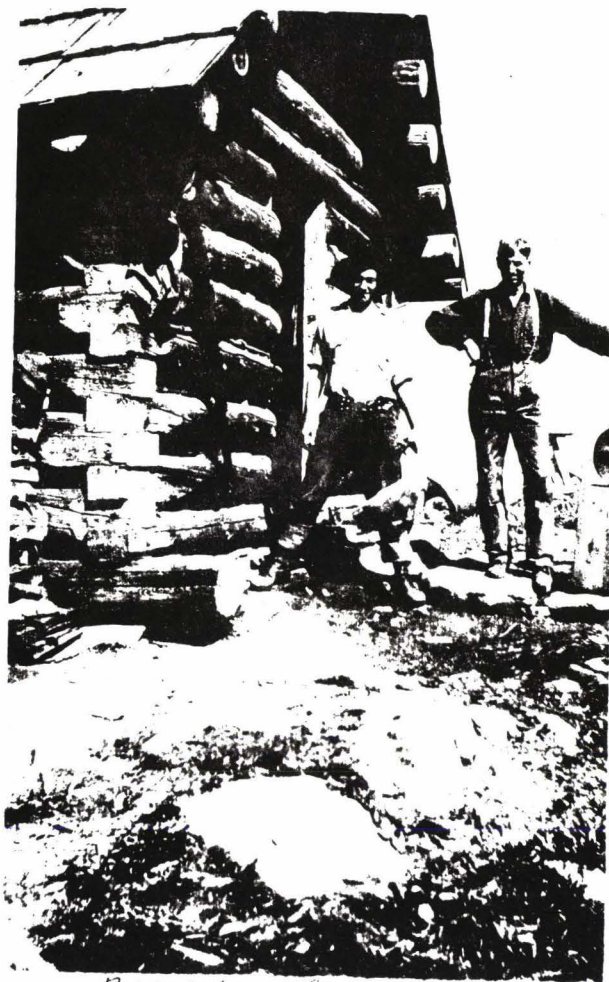
(Source-Walde, Kolmorgan, Hand, Oral Flynn, Toiva Ranta, Crete Urquhart)



Beargrass mtn tower 1924

BEARGRASS MTN. TOWER 1924

Photo by: Ralph Hand



Bear Mtn. 1923

BEAR MTN. CABIN 1923
L - R Phil Stadtman, Chet Talcott
Photo: Hugh Curry



BEAR MTN. L.O. 1937
Photo: Owen Johnson

Beaver Flat Cabin. SESE Sec.6, Twp.34N., R.9E. Elev. 1915'

Lumber for the cabin was packed to the site from Fish Butte Saddle by Packer Charley Smith during the summer of 1936. That fall, with two other men, I began construction of the building. It was about 14'x16' in size with log understructure, framed with 2x4's and covered with shiplap. The roof was covered with tar paper. As I remember we dug a cellar under the cabin and lined it with cedar. Access to the cellar was via a trap door in the cabin floor. I was called out before the job was finished and when I returned in a week or so the cabin was completed. I did not see it again until 1943. The purpose of the cabin was for game study and maintenance crew use. It was used by Forest Service personnel occasionally until the road reached there in 1949. To prevent vandalism a post maker then was given a free use permit to occupy the cabin until 1951. In 1952 the building was skidded to Sardine Creek where it was used to store supplies until they could be packed on up to the ranger station. It was burned after the road reached the station. Construction cost according to the Investment Record was \$260.00.

(Source-Lou Hartig)

Big Hill Lookout. Sec.31, Twp.33N., R.7E. Elev. 4800'

A 50 foot high log and cable brace tower with an L-4 cabin atop was built on this point by the Selway National Forest in 1832 at a cost of \$2000.00. It was taken up on the investment record in 1933.

The point played an important role in detection of fires in 1934 until the lookout was forced to evacuate the cabin when the fire closed in. One leg of the tower was badly burned and had to be replaced but the remainder of the structure was not badly damaged.

It is not known when the place was last manned but it was before 1956. The cabin and tower were declared surplus in about 1960, lightning protection and other useable material was salvaged and the tower destroyed by burning. The steep narrow road to the point was closed with erosion barriers at about the same time.

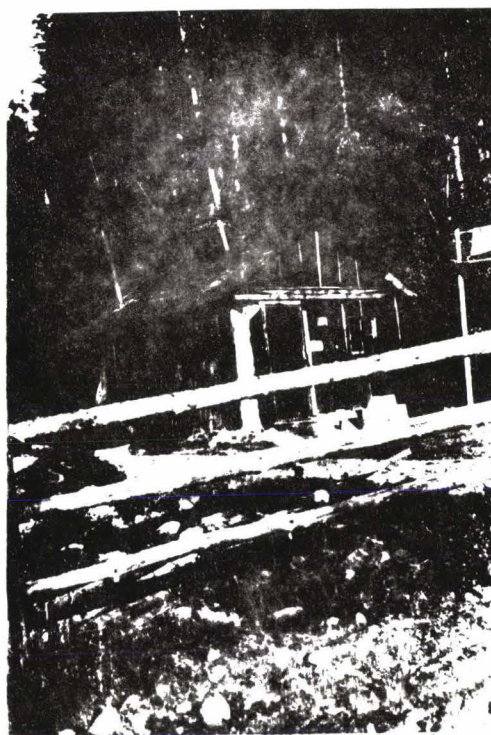
(Source-Ray Ferguson, Lochsa Investment Record, Hartig)

Bimerick Creek Cabin. Sec.3, Twp.33N.,R.8E. Elev.*1780'

The site of the cabin is still evident at the mouth of Bimerick Creek, just north of the highway at the lower end of the Bimerick Cr. bridge. The complete history of the cabin is not known but the small frame building was probably erected between the time the road reached there in 1924 and when the river trail to Lochsa R.S. was finished in 1927. It was used as a pack station by upriver packers and by maintenance crews when working the river trail and telephone line.

The packers had a corral and hay storage shed on the bench above the road and down river a short distance from the cabin. After the pack station for Lochsa was moved to Fish Butte Saddle in 1935, Bimerick Cabin was used infrequently by maintenance crews and highway construction personnel. When the work center was established at Smith Creek in 1954 the cabin was moved there for use as a make-shift bath-house. It was torn down after a new bath-house was built in about 1959.

(Source Les Felton, Hartig)



Bimerick Cabin

BIMERICK CABIN - Mouth of Creek
Photo by: Owen Johnson

Boulder Flat Ranger Station. SWSE Sec.27, Twp.,35N.,R.9E. Elev.2110'

The ranger station consisted of a 16'x18' one room log cabin erected by Ranger-At-Large J.H. Robinson in 1921. A small shake covered shed, horse corral and a root cellar dug in the bank back of the station completed the station complex. Tents were set up for mess and sleeping quarters each summer. Absence of a reliable source of drinking water was a major drawback at this site.

Fish Lake District Ranger Al Kolmorgan made his headquarters here in 1922 as did Ranger Ralph Hand in 1923 and '24. In the fall of 1924 due to impending highway construction, Ranger Hand was ordered to build a new ranger station at a new location at Zion Creek. The new 4 room station at the Zion location was completed in time for occupancy in 1925.

The following year, Boulder Flat cabin was taken apart and each log was marked to indicate its location in the structure. The logs were floated to the mouth of Zion Creek, skidded to the new location and there the cabin was reassembled. It served as a bunkhouse and was used until some time in the 1960's.

Although after nearly 60 years the lower round of logs are pretty well rotted, the cabin is exhibited as part of the Lochsa Historical Ranger Station.

(Source-Elmer Walde, Al Kolmorgan, Ralph Hand, and Owen Johnson)



OLD BOULDER FLAT R.S. 1923
 Moved to present Lochsa R.S. site in 1926
 Photo: L. Hartig collection



Boulder Flat 1923

BOULDER FLAT R.S. COOKTENT 1923
 L-R Linder, O.L. Smith, R. Hand, Geo. Bagley
 Photo: Jess Mosher

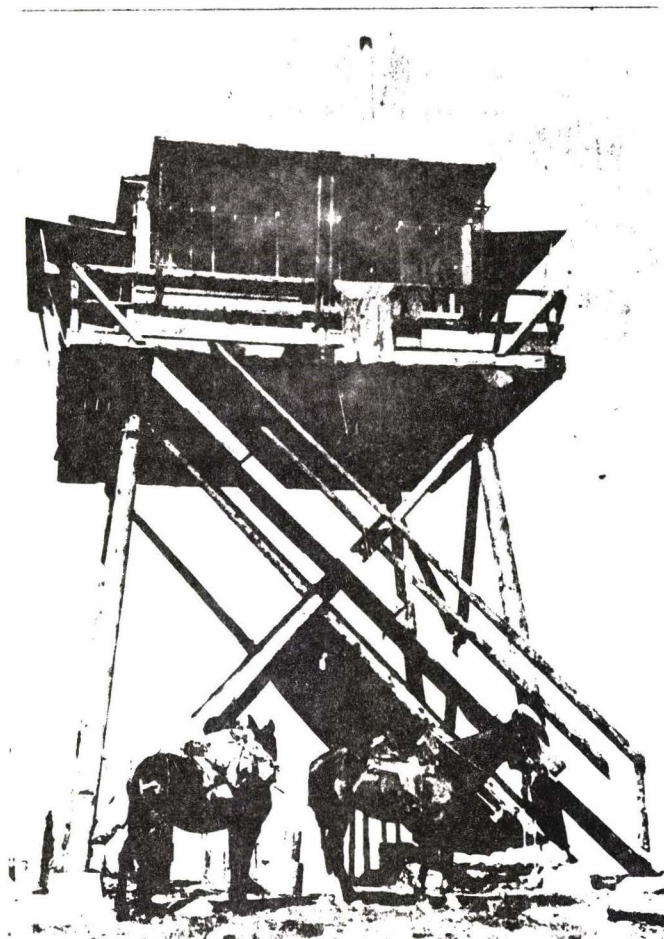
Boundary Peak Lookout SWSE Sec.13,Twp.35N.,R.7E. Elev.5243'

The point was first manned in 1933 with the lookout quartered in a tent camp. The point was manned each season thereafter until 1951 when aerial detection and smokejumpers finally eliminated it from the fire plan.

In 1934, Rufus Robinson with unknown helpers, under the direction of District Ranger Roy Lewis, built a 20' high log tower with an L-4 cabin on the point. Construction cost was \$488.00.

In 1935 a forest crew built a road from Pete Forks to Boundary lookout. The road made Boundary the most strategically located smokechaser point on the district. Both upper Fish and Hungry Creeks were within easy reach by vehicle, and travel time to the heads of the drainages was cut to a minimum. The tower was left in place until 1954 and was then condemned and burned after all above ground lightning protection material was salvaged. As far as is known, the four No. 2 copper ground wires are still buried there.

(Source Roy Lewis, Russell Stadtman and Hartig)



BOUNDARY PEAK L.O. 1951
Photo: L. Hartig

Boundary Garage

The garage, large enough to accomodate a car of average size was located probably 60 feet southwest from the tower. It was built of lumber salvaged from the abandoned CCC planting camp in the head of Spur Creek, a mile or so from the lookout. Ranger Hans Roeffler was in charge of the district when the garage was built in 1940 or '41. It was dismantled in 1954.

(Source Herb Flodberg, Hartig)

Boundary Peak Planting Camp. SWNE Sec.24, Twp.35N., R7E.

During both 1938 and '39 and possibly even the 1940 planting seasons, a CCC tree planting spike camp in the head of Spur Creek was used while planting trees in the Boundary vicinity. The camp was a combination of tents and frame buildings. After the camp was abandoned in 1940, lumber salvaged from the buildings was used at various times to build garages at Boundary Peak and Castle Butte, cabins at Mocus Point and Gold Meadows and a combination hay storage and tack building at Lochsa Ranger Station. By 1943 there was only one cabin left at the site. A Special Use permit was issued to grazing permittee Wirt Jackson and later to his widow, to use it as headquarters for a cow camp. It was still in use in 1966. What happened to it after then, I don't know.

(Source-Herb Flodberg, Hartig)

California Point. NWNE Sec.32, Twp.35N., R.12E. Elev. 6976'

This point was manned only during the summer of 1939 with the lookout living in a tent camp. To get a better view of surrounding terrain, a platform was rigged about 25 feet off the ground in a green tree with the tree top projected through it. There was no map-stand on the platform. Whether or not there was one on the ground, I do not remember. Fire locations could have been made by less conventional methods.

For communication, two miles of number nine, galvanized iron wire was strung up a ridge from the Fish Lake-McConnell Mountain telephone line and hooked to an iron telephone hung on a tree by the tent.

In about 1945 "Arky" Pointer and I rode from Fish Lake out to the Point one Sunday to pick up the iron phone and incidentally visit California Lake where we quit fishing after taking three 14-16" trout in a surprisingly short time. The California Point telephone line was rolled up that same year. Some of the rolls could in all probability still be found on the ridge as it was never picked up.

(Source-Hans Roeffler gave me the date. The rest of it I saw. L. Hartig)



CALIFORNIA PT. about 1945

Photo: L. Hartig Collection

Canyon Creek Ranger Station. NESW Sec.4, Twp.34N., R.7E. Elev. 4550'

The station was located at Canyon Meadows where the work center was later built and consisted of only one small log cabin built in 1916. In 1917 and '18 Ranger Charlie McGregor of the Middlefork District made his headquarters there at least part of the time.

By 1919 he had moved back to Pete King and Canyon Creek station was thereafter used only as a smokechaser cabin. There never was a Canyon Creek Ranger District. The Ranger Station was simply another of several headquarters for the Middlefork District Ranger. The Ranger also used Pete King and Number One as headquarters. Eventually Number One became the designated Ranger Station for the Middlefork District.

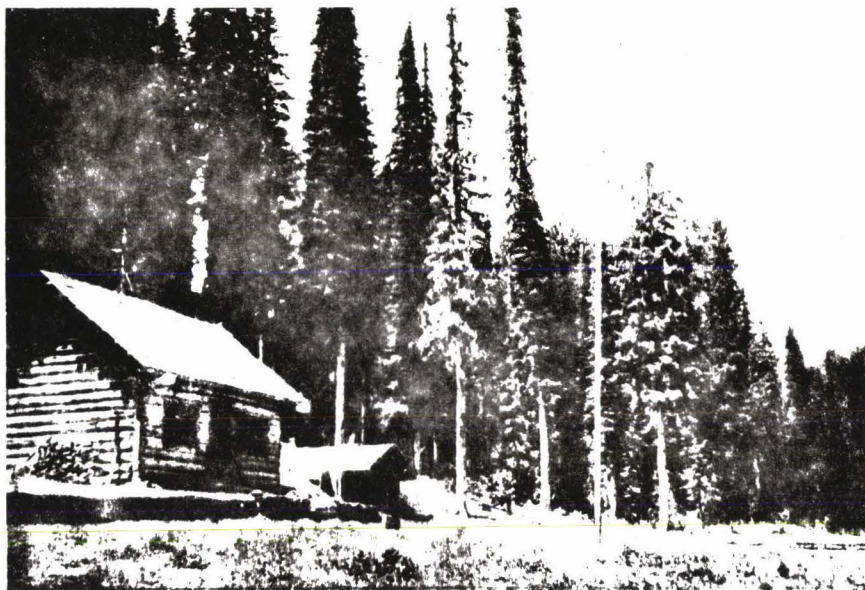
After being used as a smokechaser station for a few years Canyon Creek cabin was abandoned; just when is not known. Remains of the cabin were evident for many years.

(Source-Jack Parsell, Bill Apgar, Elmer Walde, Ralph Hand and Carl Weholt)



0.47 0.25 250'

CANYON CREEK R.S. about 1923
Photo: Hugh Curry



CANYON CREEK R.S. about 1923
Photo: Hugh Curry

Canyon Creek Work Center.

The work center was established at the site of the old Ranger Station after much of the district timber management activity became centered in the area. The first two buildings were erected in 1964. The following year additional buildings were erected and at least one each was moved in from Yakus Creek and Kelly Creek Work Centers. The two centers having served their purpose had been closed. By 1966 the camp consisted of a cookhouse, bathhouse, warehouse, cooks quarters, three or four bunkhouses, water system and probably a generator house. Buildings were portable the new ones were 12'x24' and the older ones 10'x24'.

(Source Hartig)



CANYON MEADOWS WORK CENTER 1974

Photo: William Metry

Castle Butte Lookout. Sec.28, Twp.36N.,R.10E. Elev. 6659'

It is quite probable that Ranger Roy Monroe made use of Castle Butte as a regular patrol point when he was a ranger in this area from 1910-'13 and that rangers on fire patrol used it even earlier. However, the point was first occupied as a full time seasonal lookout in 1914 when Middlefork District Ranger Joseph McGhee sent Wolford Renshaw and his brother Hubert, with their horses and camp outfit, from Number One R.S. to man the peak as lookout and smokechaser. The Middlefork District must have been a long, drawn-out stretch of country as it extended from the forest boundary on the Middle Fork to Indian Postoffice Creek with the Lochsa River as the SE boundary.

The Renshaws built a spur telephone line from the Saddle under Bald Mtn. to Castle, which gave them communication with the Ranger Station and Kooskia.

In the Fall of 1914, packer Fitz Eagan and helper Ed Gilroy packed two mule-string loads of lumber from Pete King to Bald Mtn. where it was stored under the porch of one of the cabins. The lumber was destined for Castle Butte where it was planned to build a lookout cabin in the near future.

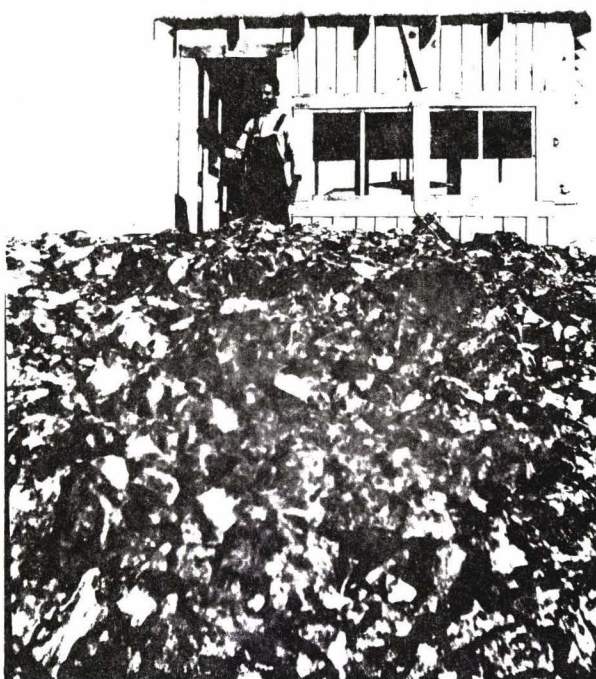
By 1915 major changes had taken place in the size and shape of Fish Lake and Middlefork Ranger Districts. Fish Lake now took in area on both sides of the river, with a boundary something like this: The western boundary was at Sherman Saddle; on the east it extended to Indian Postoffice; the northern boundary was along the Lolo trail and on the south, Lizard Creek; Rhoda Creek, North Fork of Moose Cr. and Warm Springs Cr. drainage was transferred to Powell District along with Bear Mtn. and McConnell Mtn. lookouts.

Another memorable change took place on the Selway Forest in 1915. The Forest Service now furnished food and equipment, every thing except bedding. It was no longer required that employees furnish a pack and saddle horse since the Forest Service did the packing. There was a corresponding cut in pay from \$75.00 to \$60.00 per month for smokechasers.

Ex-packer Fitz Eagan was now Ranger in charge of the Fish Lake District. He set up a seldom used tent Ranger Station at the Castle Butte spring then spent most of his time in the field. Eagan held the Ranger position from 1915 through 1919 with the tent Ranger Station at Castle Butte each summer.

In 1915 Castle Butte smokechasers Wolford Renshaw and Shelton McPherson cut and peeled logs for cabin sills at Castle. In 1916 the lumber stored at Bald Mtn. was packed over and a cabin was built on the rock capped peak. Though crude by later standards, this was the first observatory on the Fish Lake District and it did have windows on all sides so employees dubbed it "The House of Glass". The cabin was in use until 1929 when it was replaced by the more up-to-date L-3 log lookout cabin with a cupola for the firefinder and observer.

(Source-Ed Gilroy, E. Wolford Renshaw, Bill Apgar, Ralph Hand)



Castle Butte 1921

CASTLE BUTTE L.O. 1921
Kenneth Keith in doorway
Photo: Elmer Montgomery



Castle Bt. 1924

CASTLE BUTTE L.O. 1924

Ranger R. Hand -- the only building not log constructed during my 7 years on the district...

Photo: Provided by R. Hand

Castle Butte Log Cabin.

In 1920, fire-fighters under the direction of Fish Lake District Ranger Henry Nicol built a dirt-floored cabin of unpeeled logs near his tent ranger station at the Castle Butte spring located about 3/8's of a mile southwest of the peak. The next summer, firemen Elmer Montgomery and Kenneth Keith whip-sawed lumber for a floor and installed it. The cabin was used for lookout living quarters each summer until the "Glass House" on the peak was replaced by a roomier structure. After a new lookout cabin was completed on Castle's rocky crest in 1929, the log building was used only occasionally by maintenance crews working out from the lookout or by packers who had reason to stay there overnight. It was condemned and burned in 1946.

(Source-Montgomery, Elmer Walde, Russell Stadtman, Owen Johnson and Hartig)

Castle Butte L-3 Log Lookout Cabin.

Harry Chenoweth and Bussell Stadtman dismantled the "House of Glass" in 1929 and in its stead built a new L-3 type cabin. The L-3 was designed with a lower room about twelve feet square which was used for living quarters. The fire-finder was housed in a five or six foot square, glass-enclosed observatory that projected through the roof. The lower walls of this cabin were built of logs cut a year earlier; gable ends, roof and cupola were built of lumber covered with shingles or shakes.

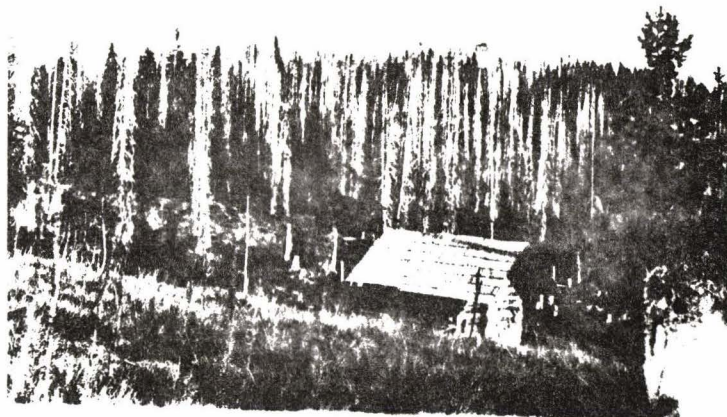
Access to the observatory was through a trap door in its floor via a ladder hinged to an overhead beam on the lower floor. The hinge allowed the ladder to be raised and fastened to the ceiling when desirable. When built the cabin was floored with rough lumber. Maple flooring was installed some time in the 1930's.

Because of the small size of windows in each of the four walls of the living area, visibility from there was limited. Observations were made from the cupolas. Furnishings in the L-3 were not standard. Castle had a double-deck iron bunk, wood burning cook stove, table, chairs or benches and storage cupboards for dishes and food.

Location of the telephone in these cabins posed a minor problem. If mounted on the map stand the lookout had to scramble up the ladder to use it and if mounted down stairs it was inconvenient when fire reports were involved. This one was mounted in the cupola since the primary purpose here was for fire detection.

The cabin was used each summer until 1950 when it was replaced by an L-4 type structure.

(Source-Ralph Hand, Chenoweth, Stadtman and Hartig).



Castle Butte Log Cabin 28

CASTLE BUTTE LOG CABIN 1928
 Old Castle Butte R.S. Castle Butte L.O. in background
 Photo: Owen Johnson



CASTLE BUTTE L-3 LOG L.O. CABIN 1933
 Owen Johnson in doorway

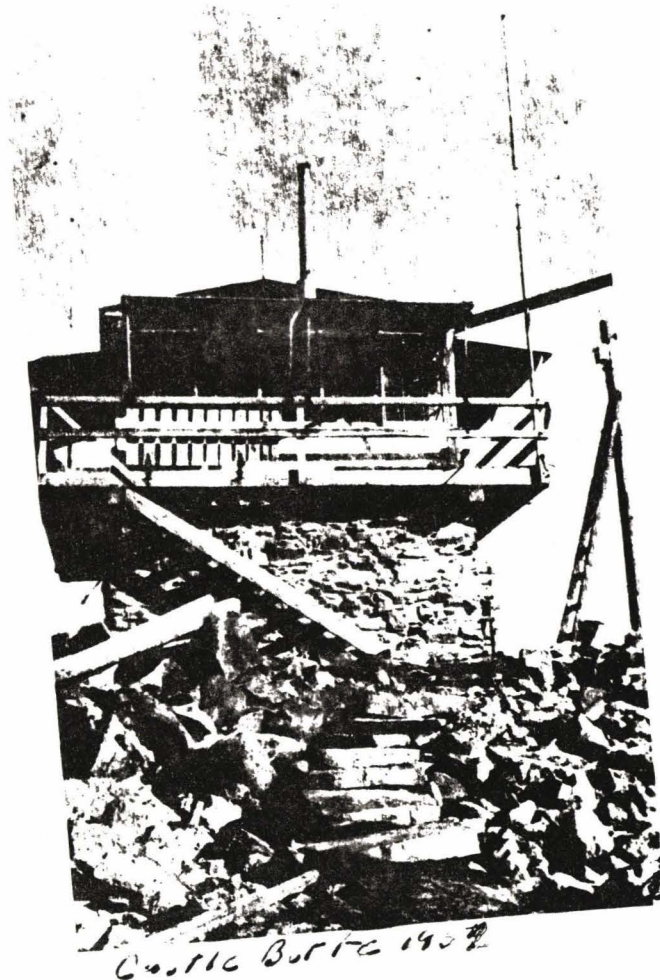
Photo: Owen Johnson collection

Castle Butte Lookout (Latest Cabin)

In August of 1950, Howard Beebe, a carpenter from Weippe, with Lochsa Station guard Bill O'Brien and one or two other helpers including lookout man Beverly Ittman, began work on the last Castle Butte lookout cabin. It was erected on a 7' high under-story built of the stone that is so abundant on the peak. The cabin was one of several that had been pre-cut at the Pierce carpenter shop during the previous winter. To make the building more sturdy, all lumber, including the catwalk railings, were cut full length. There was no splicing as in some of the earlier pack-in-type cabins.

It was built along side the old cabin which was used as crew quarters until the new one was ready for occupancy. Construction cost was \$1711.00. Logs salvaged from the old cabin were, over a period of years, sawed up for wood to stoke the lookout's cook stove. Some time around 1970, after fifty five or more consecutive seasons of use, Castle Butte became a victim of progress. Although the cabin still stands, it keeps a lonely vigil silently and abandoned. The role that Castle Butte became a victim of progress. Although the cabin still stands, it keeps a lonely vigil silently and abandoned. The role that Castle Butte played as a headquarters for early day rangers who helped shape the course of the Lochsa Ranger District is now all but forgotten, as are the men themselves; men like Rangers Fitz Eagan and Henry Nicol, Smokechasers Wolford Renshaw, who went on to become a Forest Supervisor, his brother Hubert, Elmer Montgomery who ended his career as a District Engineer for the State Highway Department, and many others who have followed the Ranger Station into the past.

(Source L. Hartig)



Castle Butte 1952

CASTLE BUTTE L.O. 1952
Photo L. Hartig

Castle Butte Garage.

After a low standard road was completed to the Butte in 1935, the Lochsa Ranger tried annually to recruit someone with a vehicle for the lookout position at Castle. He wanted someone who would be willing to place his rig under contract to the Forest Service for his own official use, mostly to haul water and wood and use it for smoke chasing when needed. Sometimes the recruitment attempt was successful, but just as often it failed. At any rate, in 1941, when Hans Roeffler was District Ranger, a small garage built of lumber salvaged from the abandoned Boundary Peak planting camp was erected at the base of the rock cap on Castle Butte. The road ended in front of the garage and was not extended to the top until 1950 when it was needed to haul material for a new lookout cabin to the building site. As far as I know the garage is still there.

(Source Roeffler and Hartig)

Cedars Cabin. About Sec.19, Twp.34N.,R.7E. Elev.*4600'

The origin of the cabin is not known for certain. It was built in the early 1900s by either trapper Frank Peters or John Austin.

The first solid information regarding the cabin came from Oral Flynn who as a member of Bert Cressler's telephone construction crew camped there for a few weeks during the summer of 1909. The cabin then was not being used on a regular basis for any purpose. Forest Service packers or crews some times used the cabin as an overnight camp while on their way in or out from the back part of the forest. Wolford Renshaw told of staying there overnight in 1911 with packers Guy McMillian and Tom Linder who were taking a telephone line construction crew over toward Rocky Ridge.

John Austin, the some-times trapper, worked for the Mussellshell Ranger District at least from 1911 to 1919. In 1919 he was stationed at Cedars cabin as a lookout and from there made scheduled fire patrols five miles southward to Walde Mtn. Whether the cabin was ever again used by a lookout is not known.

Rangers Ralph Hand and Bert Kauffman, while on their way to Lochsa Ranger Station in March of 1923, made an unscheduled overnight stop at the remains of the cabin when an unexpected fall of wet snow prevented them from reaching their Canyon Creek Station objective that day. Earlier in the winter a huge cedar tree had fallen across the cabin, putting an end to any further usefulness. However the two rangers did crawl inside the wreckage for the night and for food found two smokechaser ration chocolate bars and a bag of rice.

Whether the cabin was finally burned or just rotted away is not known for sure. One version is that it burned; another is that it did not. In 1932 a road built from Woodrat Mtn. to Frenchman Butte passed by the cabin site. In the 1960s the area was roaded up by logging operators.

(Source-Oral Flynn, Ralph Space, Ralph Hand, Carl Weholt, Wolford Renshaw)



Cedars Cabin

CEDARS CABIN Before winter of 1923
Near Walde Mtn. a tree fell across the cabin the winter of 1923-24
Photo: Willie G. Kiele

Doe Point Lookout. NW Sec. 36, Twp.34N., R.11E. Elev. 5864'

Doe Point was an overload or emergency lookout. Each Ranger District had a number of such lookouts in the fire plan as determined by elapsed travel time, fuel types and seen area. The points were to be manned when fire danger reached a predetermined critical stage. Actual manning was usually left to the discretion of the District Ranger. Evidently it was expected that Doe Point would be manned rather frequently as a telephone line was extended there from Rhoda Point in 1938 or '39. As it turned out the point was manned only one or two seasons between 1938 and '41, and then abandoned. Since the lookout man stayed in a tent camp there was not much to abandon.

The advent of smokejumpers hastened the decision to give up the point. To help finance the jumper program, districts affected soon gave up all emergency as well as some regular lookout points.

(Source Daland Broker. The remarks are mine, L. Hartig)

Dry Point Lookout. NENW Sec. 2, Twp.33N., R.7E. Elev. *4000'

The date of construction of this tower has not been determined. The structure consisted of an L-4 cabin on a 20-foot-high log tower built at a cost of \$1113.00. It is also not known when the place was last manned. It was not manned in 1956. The tower and cabin were burned in 1963.

(Source-Investment Record, Hartig)

Eagle Mtn. Lookout. NWNW Sec. 32, Twp.35N., R.11E. Elev. 7425'

1915 was the first year that Eagle Mtn. was manned as a regular season lookout. Sometime in July, Sam Weholt and Al Peterson were set up for business in a tent camp near the observation point. Peterson was the same man who the year before had been stationed at Sixty Two Lookout with Ed Gilroy. Boundary changes during the winter of 1914-15 shifted Sixty Two from the Fish Lake District to O'Hara. In 1915 Peterson elected to stay with Fish Lake while Gilroy opted for O'Hara.

At Eagle Mtn. the two men installed a post in the rocks on top of the peak on which they mounted their Koch baseboard and map. Communication with Castle Butte was established sometime in August. The telephone line was number nine galvanized iron wire from Castle Bt. to the Lochsa River and emergency wire from there to Eagle.

As far as is known, this lookout was manned each season, using tent quarters, until 1920 when Shull and an unidentified companion put in a final season. Since there were no improvements at the point, abandonment consisted of loading the camp on a pack string and pulling out.

The Mountain was again used in 1922 when smokechaser Jess Mosher, camped at End Butte and made scheduled foot patrols out to Eagle Mtn. to scan the country for smoke from this vantage point.

(Source-Elmer Walde, Wolford Renshaw, Ed Gilroy, Bill Apgar, Jess Mosher)

End Butte Lookout. NE Sec.8, Twp.34N., R.11E. Elev. 7303'

End Butte was first used as an observation point in 1922 when Fish Lake District Ranger Al Kolmorgan set a tent camp, manned by Jess and Emmet Mosher, Hugh Curry and Phil Stadtman, in a little meadow at the head of a fork of Wounded Doe Creek about 3/4 mile from the top of the Butte. Whether all four men stayed there throughout the summer is doubtful, but Jess Mosher did. He made scheduled patrols to End Butte and out the ridge to Eagle Mtn. He had telephone communication with Boulder Creek R.S. via an emergency wire line tied into the emergency line which at that time connected Stanley Butte to the iron wire line at Fish Lake Saddle.

End Butte was not manned again until 13 years later. By then, the split-up of the Selway Forest had given the Lochsa District to the Clearwater Forest with Ranger Roy Lewis in charge. During the 1935 season a lookout with tent quarters was placed near the top of the Butte and a galvanized iron wire telephone line was built in from Fish Lake Saddle. A tent camp was then used each summer through 1939, when at a cost of \$1224.00, Ranger Hans Roeffler had material packed in and built an L-4 lookout cabin on a 10' log tower in the rocks on top of the peak. The tower was manned seasonally through 1952 when aerial detection and smokejumpers made it obsolete and it was dropped from the fire plan. It was condemned and burned in 1955 or 56.

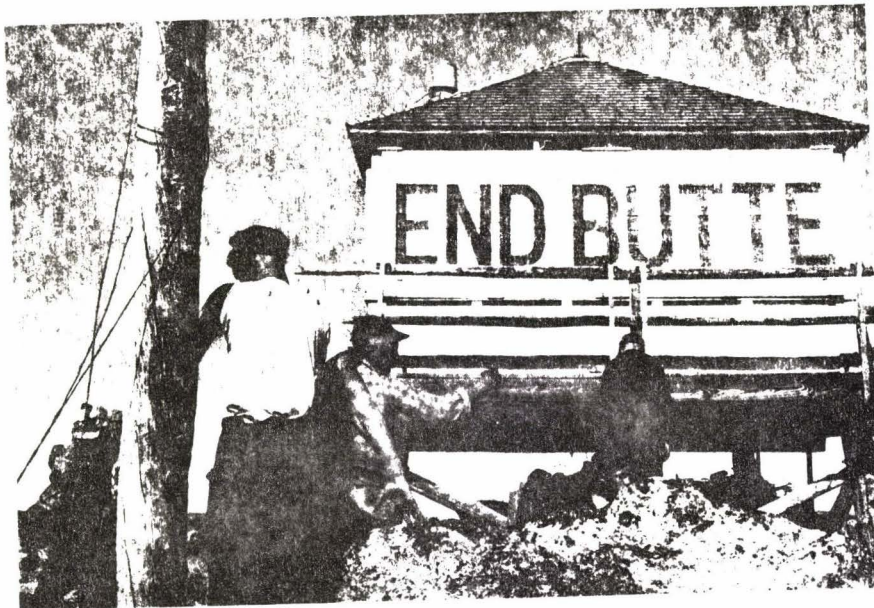
End Butte was the first point on the Lochsa District to be "manned" solely by a woman. Minnie Wilson of Clarkston, Washington held the observer position in 1947-48.

(Source-Jess Mosher, Roy Lewis, Hans Roeffler, Daland Broker, Les Felton, Hartig)

End Bt. 1938



END BUTTE L.O. 1938
Chas. Thomason holding sign
Photo: Daland Broker



END BUTTE L.O. 7/21/55
End for End Butte was in 1952
Photo: Boy Scout Leader
L. Hartig Collection

Fish Butte Lookout. Sec.36, Twp.35N., R8E. Elev. 5291'

Jack Parsell who was on Fish Butte lookout in 1917 has this to say: "I doubt I shall ever forget my experience as lookout on Fish Butte. First of all, I packed my bedroll and personal effects on my back from Kooskia to the lookout. The Ranger (Charlie McGregor) packed in our camp and placed it in the saddle about 3/4 mile NW of the lookout point. We had no tent, no stove, no telephone. We made a shelter of cedar bark and cooked over a camp fire. I had no previous instructions in map reading, map orientation or other instrumentations now given in a 3 or 4 day training course. The ranger told me I would find the instructions in a certain box and pulled out after dumping our camp"

When Parsell and his partner Doc Figley climbed from Fish Butte Saddle to Fish Butte for the first time they found a post for their map board already in place. It had been set up by smokechasers who, a year or so earlier, had manned the point for the first time. They climbed the butte many times that summer to scan the country for fire. Since they had no means of communication with the Ranger, who had his headquarters at Canyon Creek Station, any action they took on fires was on their own initiative. Being untrained, their attempts at heliograph signals to Coolwater Lookout turned out to be a fizzle. In mid-August a fire originating on the Fish Creek slope proved too much for them and burned them out. They spent the remainder of the season helping a crew fight the fire that spread south-westward to McClendon Butte and reached nearly to the Lochsa River.

(Source-Parsell, Ed Gilroy)

In 1919, instead of camping at the Fish Butte Saddle spring, Elmer Walde and a companion set their camp on a bench a very short distance below the top of the butte. They slept in a tent but still had to cook over a camp fire. Water was packed from a spring some distance below camp. Communication was again by heliograph with Coolwater lookout and with not much success. Before the end of the fire season the communications system may have improved. Carl Wehold who was smokechaser at Canyon Meadows Station thinks a telephone line was completed to Fish Butte during the summer. Walde remembered vividly the fire that burned out the Lochsa Canyon from Fire Creek to Sherman Creek in one day in 1919.

The next year Roy Talmage and Ingomar Mohler (Also believed to be known as Kenneth Mohler) manned Fish Butte using about the same set-up as Walde used the year before. Telephone communication with the outside is verified by a fire report from Robert Leitch to Frank Jefferson dated August 9, 1920 that was phoned from Fish Butte to Kooskia.

Early in the 1920 season, before Mohler's arrival at the lookout, Carl Weholt hiked from Pete King to Fish Butte to help Talmage install a "Chinaman". They swamped out a right-of-way from a point near the lookout straight down the hill to a water hole about an eight, or quarter mile below. They then built a wooden frame on the ridge to which a pulley was attached. Another pulley at the spring was installed in such a manner that a bucket on an endless rope threaded through the pulleys would tip and fill with water when lowered to the spring. It was then hauled to the ridge top by manpower.

Fish Butte Lookout(continued)

I saw the "chinaman" in 1936 but it was no longer in use as the spring had dried up. But at some time an enterprising lookout had built a log crib on which a homemade wooden winch was installed, evidently to make the haul less strenuous.

(Source-Elmer Walde, Carl Weholt, Fire records)

In 1921 and '22 a log cabin about 14'x16' in size was built on the little bench about 150' NW from the top of the peak. Builders of the cabin have not been identified for certain but are presumed to be Roy Talmage and Kenneth Mohler. Talmage also helped build other cabins on the district.

In 1921 Fish Butte was on the Middlefork District. It was not until 1922 that a boundary change had shifted it to Fish Lake District. That was the same year that Ranger Al Kolmorgan moved into the new Ranger Station at Boulder Flat. The log cabin served as lookout quarters until 1930 when a new model observatory-type building put it on the shelf. The old cabin was condemned and burned in 1946.

(Source Kolmorgan and Hartig)

In 1930 enough of the granite boulders on top of the butte were blasted off to provide a flat place for a cabin. On the flattened area, District carpenter Earnest Hartman and Fish Butte lookout Lloyd McHone erected a 14-foot-square, 8-foot-high log base. Atop the base they assembled the 14'x14' pre-cut, glass enclosed combination observatory and living quarters from material that had been packed to the point by mule train. The understory served the dual purpose of giving additional elevation for better visibility and provided a place for storage of lookout supplies, equipment and stove wood. Construction cost was \$471.00.

There was no catwalk around the outside to raise the shutters and secure the shutter braces, working from a rickety pole stepladder, a man working alone had to be both an acrobat and a daredevil. When at all possible, two men were assigned to the task of shutter raising, which was a once-per-season event.

The short lumber packed in for this early model cabin was before the advent of iron bunks and resulted in a building with many splices that was far from being rain and ant proof. Both made entry around the ill fitting windows and the ants especially caused the occupant many uncomfortable days.

Without doubt every lookout assigned to this cabin remembers vividly the season long experience with flying ants, how they swarmed about the cabin almost daily and died by the thousands both outside and in, how they crunched underfoot and had to be swept off the floor one or more times each hour, how they got into food, water, beds and were found literally in every nook and cranny in the cabin.

Even DDT, when it became available, although applied four or five pounds at a time on the shutter tops where the rolling mass of ants was most dense, had no noticeable effect on their numbers.

Fish Butte Lookout (continued)

This cabin was manned through the 1953 season, then dismantled after a new cabin was completed. Logs were saved for stove wood and the remaining debris was burned.

(Source-Earnest Hartman, Russell Stadtman, Lloyd McHone, Hartig and Investment Records)

In 1953, forest dozer operator Jim Carney built a steep, narrow road from Fish Butte Saddle to Fish Butte Lookout. The road did away with the only mile of trail on the north side of the Lochsa River where the District needed pack stock to supply a lookout. Construction was precipitated by the need for a road over which to haul material for a new lookout cabin to the peak.

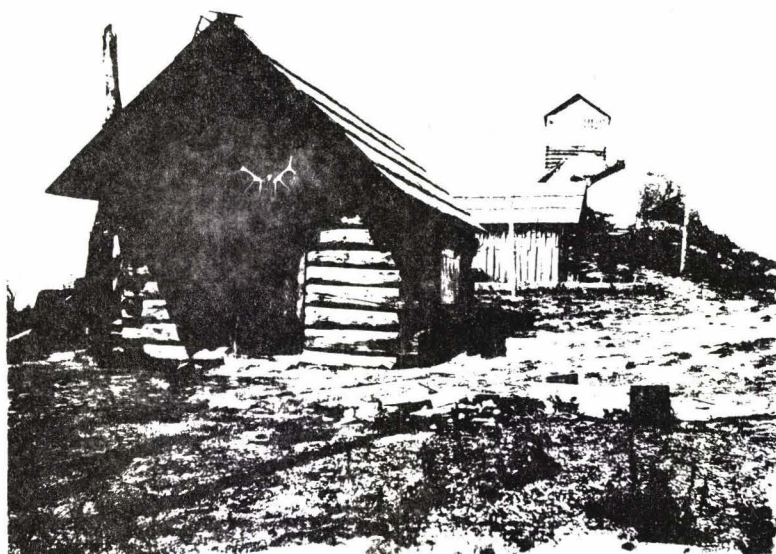
Dynamite was used to flatten more of the rock along side the old cabin, on this site the new structure was built. It had a concrete floor and an eight foot high under-story of concrete blocks on which the modified L-4 lookout cabin was put together. With all lumber cut full length the building was much more sturdy and tighter built than the old one, making it easier to keep the ants at bay. The outside overhead framework, an integral part of the structure, provided a place to which raised shutters could be bolted by one man from the safety of the catwalk. This method of fastening put an end to the frequent loss of shutters during high winds, an inherent weakness of the old L-4 cabins. George Brocke, an experienced carpenter built the cabin with a little help from the lookout man. Total cost of material and construction was \$2531.00.

After being manned as a regular lookout for around 55 seasons, Fish Butte was last used in the late 1960's or early 70's. It now stands abandoned and the millions of flying ants bother no one.

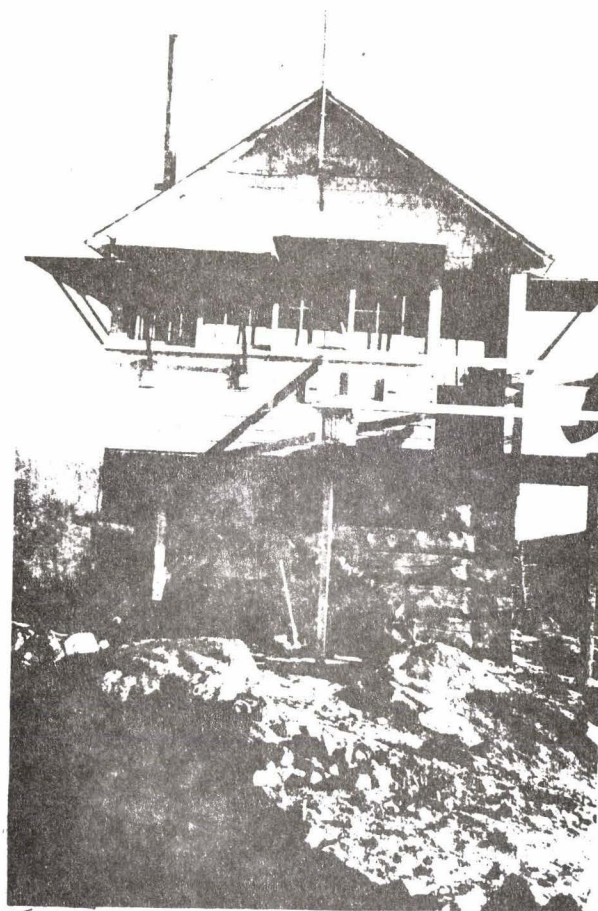
(Source: Hartig and Investment Records)



FISH BUTTE L.O. 1923
 L-R Dolph Rendell, Ray Talmage, Carl Weholt
 Photo: C. Weholt



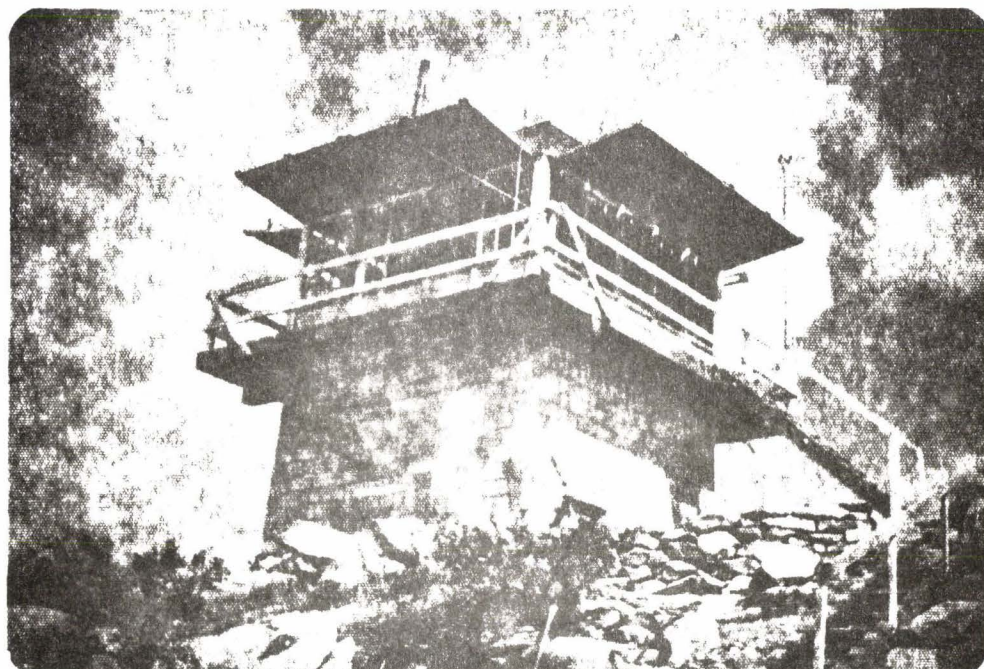
FISH BUTTE L.O. 1930
 Photo: Harry Chenoweth



Fish Butte L.O. 1951

FISH BUTTE L.O. (OLD) 1951

Photo by: L. Hartig



FISH BUTTE L.O. (New) 1953

Fish Butte Saddle Pack Station. Sec. 36, Twp.35N., R.8E. Elev. 4600'

By 1935 all supplies, destined for the Lochsa R.S., were trucked to Fish Butte Saddle, then taken by pack train, the remaining seven miles, to the ranger station. A tent camp was set up at the saddle for temporary quarters and storage, and construction of a permanent station was soon underway. It consisted of a combination warehouse and kitchen about 18'x40' in size, framed with poles and covered with shakes, both roof and sides. It had a good smooth lumber floor. The front was up from the ground to the height of a truck bed, and the back was set in an excavation. There eventually was a loading platform the full length of the building front.

The kitchen was finished with salvaged celotex panels for looks and insulation. There was room for one or two metal cots in the kitchen and extra cots were set up in the warehouse as needed. Most of the time, water was only 30 or 40 feet away. During dry periods an improved spring about 150 feet away was used.

The warehouse was located above the road just down from the lowest part of the saddle. Construction Cost was \$753.00.

A hayshed and corral were built just below the road about 150 or 200 feet SW from the warehouse. Actually the road passed within 4 or 5 feet of the shed front. Space for building was so limited that the back of the hayshed was on stilts about 10 feet high. This building, about the same size as the warehouse, was framed of poles with the roof covered with hand split cedar shakes, made at the site. The floor was of split cedar planks (puncheon). Shake siding was added in 1943 and 44.

The corral below the hayshed was 150 feet square with the shed forming part of the enclosure. It was built of split cedar rails and telephone wire, a manger ran the full length of the side next to the hayshed. A string of nine mules could be fed hay directly from inside the shed. If there were more than nine, hay had to be carried outside to the manger. Water from the tiny stream at the site was piped to a water trough inside the corral. One bad feature of the corral was that the stream ran right through the middle of it. Construction cost of hayshed and corral was \$715.00.

A gas storage shed 100 feet north of the warehouse completed the complex. It was a small building originally built for a meat house that had been resurrected from some place and hauled to the site.

After the road reached Lochsa Ranger Station in 1952 the place became excess and by 1954 every thing usable had been removed from the buildings and the whole lot was burned.

(Source: Roy Lewis, Les Felton, Investment records, Hartig)



Fish Butte Saddle Warehouse 1935

FISH BUTTE SADDLE PACK STATION-WAREHOUSE 1935
Photo: Les Felton

Fish Creek Ranger Station. SWSW Sec.27, Twp.35N., R.7E. Elev. 3800'

Located on the North side of Fish Creek a few yards east of Trail 230. The origin of the cabin has not been determined. Otto Robinette, who I talked to in 1968, was a member of a crew stationed there in the spring of 1905, thought it may have been a trappers cabin. Wolford Renshaw stayed overnight in a cabin at the same site in 1911 and described it as "A well constructed log cabin with dovetail corners, rough board floor and roofed over porch". Hardly the type of cabin that a trapper would build, neither did Renshaw refer to it as an "Old Cabin". Ed Gilroy stayed there for over a week in the fall of 1914, he also says it was a "good cabin".

Ranger Sumner Rackliff was in charge of the 5 or 6 man crew at Fish Creek R.S. in 1905. They worked out of there at least until the end of June (And there the chronicle ends - Jim Stuart was assigned to another part of the Forest). One of their projects was to build Trail #230 and they also "Cut timbers for a cabin". It could be surmised that the timbers were eventually used to build a new cabin which would account for the good cabin that Renshaw and Gilroy saw in 1911 and 1914.

Additional construction was planned as late as 1914 when a crew cut, skidded and peeled logs for another cabin. It was never built, instead a new Ranger Station was completed at Canyon Meadows in 1916, and Fish Creek R.S. was abandoned and burned. In 1943 I first saw the deck of logs that had been cut and peeled in 1914, there was not much left, just a big pile of rotten wood back of the old Ranger Station site.

(Source-Jim Stuart's diary, Otto Robinette, Elmer Walde, Jack Parsell, Ed Gilroy, and Wolford Renshaw)

Fish Lake Cabin.(Original) SW Sec. 34, Twp. 35N., R.11E. Elev. *5700'

It was also known as the "Lew Fitting" cabin. Ralph Hand stated, "It was purported to have been built by Lew Fitting in about 1901". And that is the extent of knowledge of its origin. 2/

It was built of unpeeled logs was about 10'x12' in size and had a shake-covered roof. The earliest verification of its existence is when Ed Gilroy saw it in 1913. Ed said it was an old-looking, run-down cabin even then. It was located just across the creek from the extreme upper end of the landing strip opposite the last cabin to be built at the lake. It was used by maintenance and fire crews until 1929 when a new cabin was built at a nearby location.

In 1921, Ranger Elmer Walde established Fish Lake District headquarters at the cabin for one season only. A year earlier, the Ranger had his headquarters at Castle Butte and the following year headquarters was moved to Boulder Flat. A trail and telephone line up Boulder Creek were completed to Fish Lake in 1921.

There were two other cabins down near the lake shore but as far as is known, this was the only one used by the Forest Service. Nothing has been learned of the two cabins at the lake, except that they were there.

The Lew Fitting cabin was burned after a new cabin was built a short distance away in 1929.

(Source. Elmer Walde, Ralph Hand, Ed Gilroy, Bill Apgar, Al Kolmorgan)

2/ Although Jim Stuart and other rangers frequently camped at Fish Lake in 1904-05, Stuart does not mention a cabin. However, one cannot construe this as meaning that none was there. He also did not mention a cabin at Fish Creek although he stayed there a month in 1905. There was, in fact, a cabin there. A cabin at Fish Lake could well have made it a popular layover spot. L. Hartig.



NOT 1970

Fish Lake Low Fitting Cabin

FISH LAKE RANGER STATION - 1921
Original Low Fitting Cabin - photo taken between 1915-19
Photo: Mrs. Fitz (Eva) Eagan

Fish Lake (Upham) Cabin. SW Sec.34, Twp.35N., R.11E.

In 1929, Ranger Ralph Hand delegated to Jess Upham and Roy Talmage the job of replacing the Lew Fitting cabin which had long since seen its best days. A site was selected about 3/8 mile west of the upper end of the present landing strip and about fifty feet north of Trail #211. There the new cabin was erected. It was built of peeled logs, roofed with cedar shakes, and 14x16 feet in size. It was used by maintenance crews and packers until a larger cabin built at the west end of the just-completed landing strip was ready for occupancy in 1934. After being vacated, the Upham cabin was condemned and burned. The site was easily discernable when I was last by there in 1966.

(Source: Ralph Hand, Russell Stadtman)

Fish Lake Cabin. (latest) SW Sec.34, Twp.35N., R.11E.

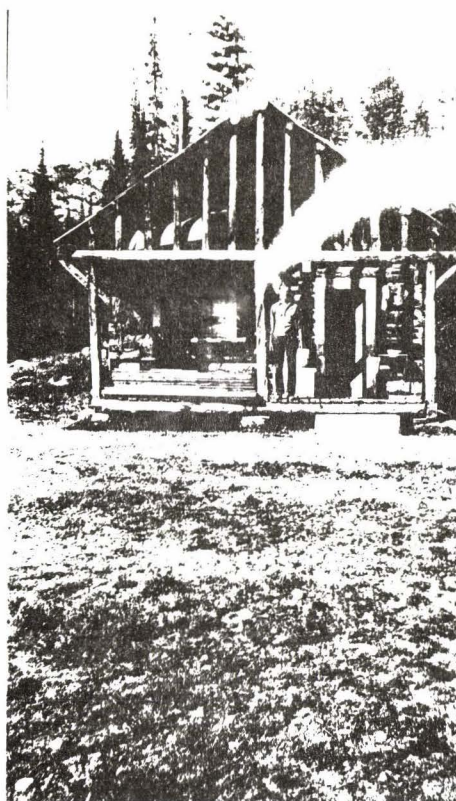
The cabin is, or was, located at the extreme west end of the landing strip. Construction began in the fall of 1933 and, except for door and window installation, was completed the same year. To head up the construction job, Rod Richards, who was familiar with scribe method of building, was borrowed from the Moose Cr. District. The crew consisted of Russell Stadtman, his brother Phil and brothers Bill and Charley Branstrom. Each of the men went up with a corner while Richards did the scribe work. By the time they got the roof on in late October there was 18 inches of snow on the ground so the crew pulled out for Lochsa Station. The cabin was 16'x24' in size with a 6' roofed-over and floored proch and was built of peeled logs. Inside a storage loft was built cross-wise of the building for about half its length. The loft also provided extra sleeping space when needed. The cabin built by the Selway National Forest was transferred to the Clearwater following the 1934 fire.

After completion of the landing field and cabin a smokechaser was stationed there most seasons until in the 1950's.

It was also frequently used by maintenance crews, the District packer and by smoke-jumper crews who were detailed to the District from Missoula for work assignment during slack periods in the fire season. Jumpers and jump gear from fires in the vicinity were assembled at the landing strip for pick up and return to their base by plane.

The cabin was transferred to the Powell District in 1963.

(Source-Russell Stadtman, Roy Lewis, L. Hartig)

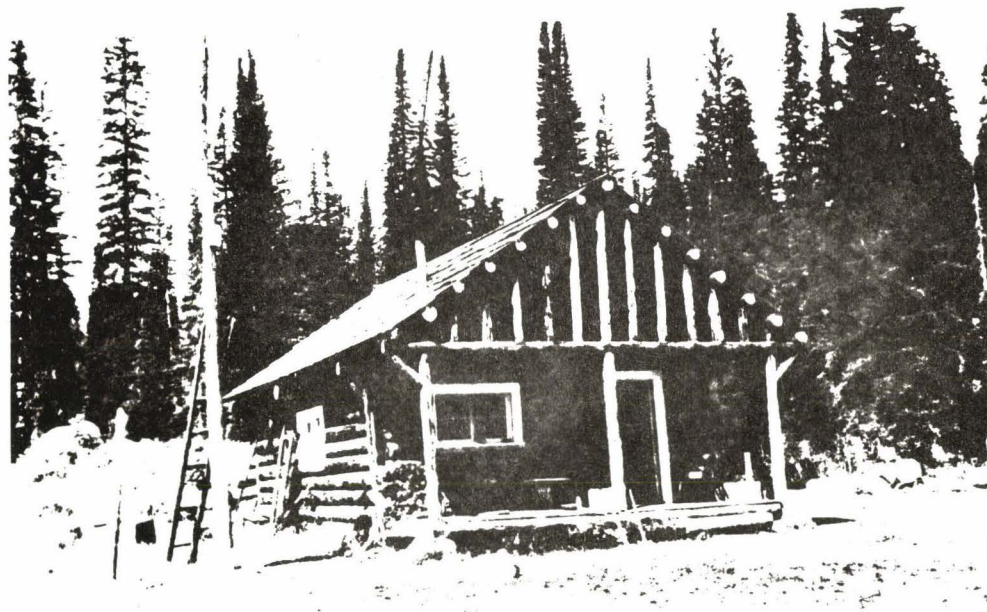


Cabin at Fish Lake

FISH LAKE CABIN 1936

Completed in 1933

Photo: L. Hartig



FISH LAKE CABIN (LATEST) 1938

Photo: Daland Broker

Fish Lake Storage Shed.

Located about 100' NW of the log cabin at the end of the landing strip. This 14'x18' building of pole and shake construction, set on concrete piers, was built in 1944 to house landing strip maintenance equipment, including a horse-drawn road grader. The shed was built with open ends so the grader could be moved in and out by pulling it through the building. Shakes were split at the Lochsa Ranger Station, then packed to the site by District packer Dolph Randall. District employees Oscar Hendrickson and Clarence Blankenship built the shed to withstand the 10' plus snow depths that occur at Fish Lake. Cost of construction was \$223.00.

(Source-Improvement Binder and Hartig)

Fish Lake Tractor Shed.

This building was located about 30' South of the log cabin. It was built in the fall of 1950 to house the Farmall tractor and attachments that had been flown to the field earlier that year. It was built on the same order as the storage shed except that it was 16'x20' in size and had ends covered to keep porcupines from eating the rubber tires off the tractor. Builders were Assistant Ranger Charles Smith and Guard Monte Miles. Construction cost \$605.00. The purpose of the tractor was to replace the four horses needed to pull the grader and drag.

(Source-Improvement Binder, Hartig)

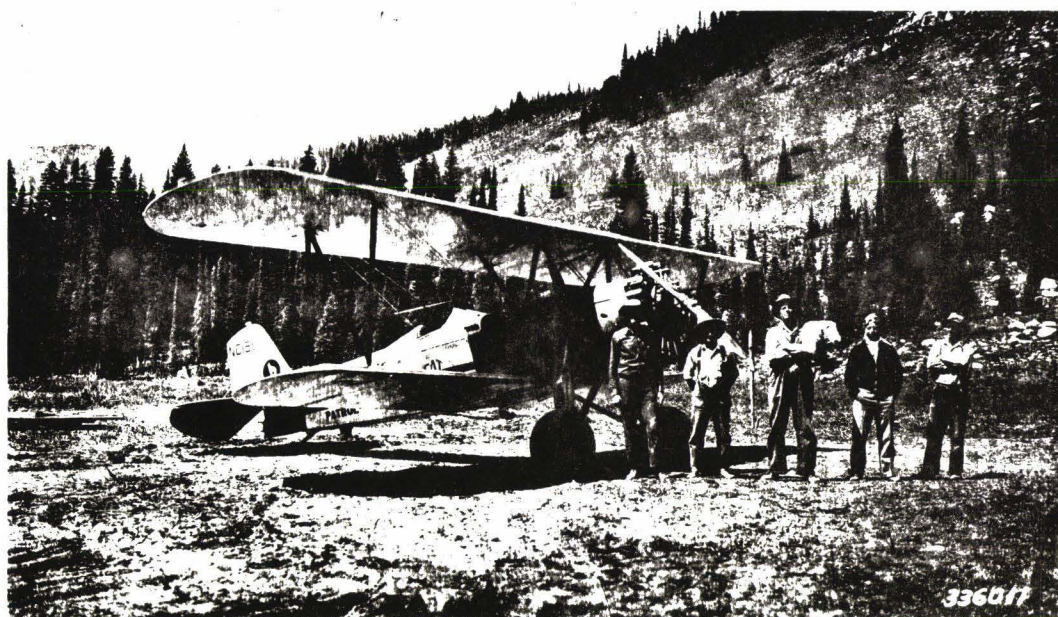
Fish Lake Horse Corral.

Sometime in the late 1950's, District packer Charles Davis supervised construction of this pentagon shaped corral located 100 yards or so west of the cabin. It was built of spruce logs to withstand heavy snow fall. It replaced a pole corral at the site of the Lew Fitting Cabin.

(Source-Hartig)



FISH LAKE LANDING FIELD APRIL 11, 1934
 First Plane to land
 Photo: Official F.S.



HOWARD FLINT AND SHRECK w/ STEARMAN AT FISH LAKE LANDING FIELD
 April 11, 1934
 Photo: Official F.S.

Frenchman Butte Lookout. SWNE Sec.2, Twp.34N., R7E. Elev. 5189'

It has not been learned when the Selway Forest first manned Frenchman as a lookout, but in 1933 Earnest Hartman and Richard Stadtman built an L-4 cabin on a 50' tower on the point at a cost of \$915.

The lookout went to the Nezperce Forest with the 1934 Selway split-up. It was manned seasonally, until sometime in the late 1940's or early 50's, then dripped from the Middelfork District fire plan. It did get some use after that by smoke-chasers who climbed the tower to recheck locations when looking for fires in the vicinity.

The point came to the Lochsa District with the 1956 boundary changes. By 1960 the stairway had become hazardous to climb so the tower was tumbled to the ground and burned after lightning protection fixtures had been salvaged. A garage built at the lookout in 1936 was burned in about 1958.

(Source-Lloyd McHone, Investment Records, Hartig)



Frenchman Butte L.O.

FRENCHMAN BUTTE L.O.

Photo: Lloyd McHone

Gold Hill Lookout. SENW Sec.28,Twp.35N.,R.10E. Elev. 6449'

The point was manned for the first time in 1931 and that same year Earnest Hartman and Harry Chenoweth were moved to Gold Hill under the direction of Ranger Fred Shaner and there they built a 30' high log tower on top of which they assembled a pre-cut L-4 lookout cabin. Material for the cabin was packed in from roads end at Bimerick Creek by mule train and as in all cases of off-road tower construction, sand, gravel and cement for the concrete piers on which the four tower legs were set and anchored, was also moved in by pack string. Sand and gravel were available on the Lochsa River, near the station. When the tower and cabin were completed, the lookout man moved in and, with very few exceptions, the point was manned each season until 1951 when aerial detection and smokejumpers finally put it out of business.

In 1954 Assistant Ranger Charles Smith sawed two legs off the tower and dumped it on the ground where it was later burned. Only the completely barren hill on which the tower was located saved it from being burned in the 1934 fire.

(Source Earnest Hartman, Harry Chenoweth, Fred Shaner, Hartig)



Gold Hill 1938

GOLD HILL L.O. 1938
Photo: Daland Broker

Gold Meadows Cabin. SW Sec.17, Twp.35N., R.11E. Elev. *5500

In 1924, Ranger Hand abandoned Wounded Doe Ridge as a lookout after one season of use. Instead he set up a two-man smokechaser team at Gold Meadows where the men moved into an old trapper cabin located in a small, swampy meadow at the extreme head of Gold Meadows Creek. Origin of the cabin is not known. The first it was heard of is when Ed Gilroy reported seeing it in 1914 when he made a trip to a fire camp in the vicinity. It was an old cabin then. The smokechasers made patrols to an open ridge about $\frac{1}{2}$ mile southeast of the cabin, from there they had a good view of surrounding area.

Communication with the Ranger Station was established by building a telephone line along Trail #206 past Eagle Mtn. to Fish Lake Saddle. The old cabin was used until the mid-1926 season then the men moved into a newly-built cabin at about the same site. The old trapper cabin disappeared. I didn't think to ask what became of it, but a good guess is that the torch was applied.

(Source-Ralph Hand)

Second Gold Meadows Cabin. Same location as above.

In 1925 Bill McDougal and Lester Montgomery were stationed at the Meadows. They cut, skidded and peeled logs for the new cabin, and the following year McDougal and Bill McRoberts erected the 14'x16' cabin and roofed it with split cedar shakes packed in from the Lochsa River. The cabin was manned seasonally until 1936, but somewhere along the line manning was cut to one smokechaser. In 1937 the smoke-chaser left the cabin and was moved to the observation point where he set up housekeeping in a rag camp. The old cabin was left for use by maintenance crews. As I remember the cabin was still standing in 1966 although it had been replaced by a new cabin at a new location and was no longer used.

(Source-Ralph Hand, Les Felton, Hartig)

Ridge Camp at Gold Meadows. SW Sec.16, Twp.35N., R.11E.

In 1937 lookout-fireman Lester Felton was set up for business in a tent camp at the Gold Meadows observation point on the ridge top. Trail #206 passed right by his camp, as did the telephone line. Les with a helper built a small log cabin at the point. It was about 8'x10' in size and when finished was used for sleeping quarters and supply storage, cooking was done in the tent set up in front of the cabin. The set-up at this location didn't last long. It may have been manned one more year, but by 1939 the observer had been moved to Sponge Mtn. about two miles to the south but still on Trail #206. The small cabin was never taken up on the District investment records and although it must have been destroyed, the details escape me.

(Source-Lester Felton, Hartig)

Gold Meadows Frame Cabin. NESW Sec. 17, Twp.35N., R11E.

Gold Meadows was a strategically-located and frequently-used maintenance camp site. Crews camped there while working Trails 205, 206, 209, 260 and a section of the Mocus Point telephone line. Finally it was decided to get out of the gloomy old cabin in the mosquito-infested swamp and build a more habitable cabin at a drier location.

A site was selected on a dry point $\frac{1}{4}$ mile or so down from the old site and on the south side of the creek, 150 feet or so west of Trail #205. During the summer of 1946 material for the cabin, including lumber salvaged from Boundary Peak planting camp and hardwood flooring and windows salvaged from an abandoned lookout was packed in by the District packer.

After the fire season was over, Assistant Ranger Clarence Gunefson and Guards Carl Hager and Norman Mohr moved to Gold Mds., set up a tent camp and put up the 12'x 20' frame cabin. By design, it was located in a clump of lodgepole pine and for several years escaped public notice, so it was unmolested. After a trail was cleared to the cabin it was broken into every hunting season.

The place was used until in the mid-1950s when need for it became minimal due to two factors; with the abandonment of all telephone lines and some trails in the area and with no lookouts to tend, the District packer became available to bring roving trail maintenance crews into the picture. Fixed maintenance camps became a rarity. A 1971 Forest map shows the cabin still in place. Cost of building the cabin was \$633.13.

(Source-Investment Record, Hartig)



Gold mdws 1936

GOLD MDWS. CABIN 1936
 Packer Pete Shriver in doorway
 Photo: Courtesy of Pete Shriver



Gold mdws Lookout 1938

GOLD MDWS. LOOKOUT 1938
 L - R Jim Abrams & Art Melly
 Photo: Les Felton

Grave Butte Lookout. SW Sec.17, Twp.36N., R.11E. Elev. 6190'

It was a long haul from Lochsa Ranger Station out to Grave Butte. The route was up Sherman Cr., out the Lolo Trail (no road then) past Castle Butte to Trail #207 then 5 miles on to the lookout. Total distance was about 26 miles. The butte was first used as a seasonal detection point in 1928 when Ranger Ralph Hand set up a tent camp on the south side of the peak perhaps $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the top.

Construction of an L-3 lookout cabin began in 1929. The L-3 forerunner of the L-4 was 12-feet square with a glass enclosed cupola projected through the roof. The cupola, about 5 feet square, housed the firefinder and provided space from which the observer could scan his area. It was floored and accessible from the lower floor by a ladder hinged to an overhead beam. The ladder, when not in use, was swung up out of the way and latched in place. The lower level was all living space, equipped with stove, bunks, table, etc. The small windows on the lower level, while adequate for light, were not much good as far as seen area was concerned. This cabin was made of peeled logs and had a split cedar shake roof. The floor was hardwood.

Before the cabin was finished, the Bald Mtn. fire blew up and endangered the lookout. The crew was ordered to evacuate the camp, but before leaving they built a trench around the area and burned out the inside. Everything inside the trench was saved. By 1930, Ranger Fred Shaner had taken over the District. He sent Earnest Hartman and Harry Chenoweth in to finish the cabin that summer. In time, the lookout man added a shake covered woodshed, a root cellar and the usual Chic Sales (outhouse) to complete the complex.

Grave Butte was last manned in 1940, but it was 1954 before the buildings were condemned and the packer went in to rescue usable items before Bill O'Brien went in to do the torch job.

(Source-Ralph Hand, Shaner, Hartman, Chenoweth, Russell Stadtman, Hartig)



GRAVE BUTTE L.O. ABOUT 1931-33

Grouse Point Lookout. Sec.9, Twp.35N., R.9E. Elev. *5000'

Grouse Point was manned for the first time in 1933 when a tent camp was set up with Russell Stadtman as lookout man. Slim Tunstill was sent up as carpenter formen to build a 30' log tower and L-4 cabin. Stadtman and two other men helped with construction which was completed that year. In 1934, the tower was manned for the first and last time. In August the 1934 fire burned it to the ground. The point was never manned again.

(Source-Roy Lewis, Russell Stadtman)

Horse Camp Log Cabin. NW Sec.3, Twp.34N.,R.10E. Elev.*4700'

The 14' square log cabin was built in 1928 by Bill McDougal and Bill McRoberts at a cost of \$310.00. The central location to work and abundance of nearby horse feed made this an ideal location for a maintenance cabin. It was used seasonally until 1937 when a new rat-proof living quarters was built nearby. The rat-infested log cabin was thereafter used for tack and storage until 1976 when the newer cabin was found crushed to the ground by heavy snow from the previous winter. The log cabin was then refurbished, made rat proof and again put in use as living quarters by seasonal crews and packer.

(Source Ralph Hand, Jim Davis, Improvement Binder)

Horse Camp Frame Cabin. Located 100 yards west of log cabin.

The 12' x 14' cabin, framed with 2x4s was sided with tar paper covered shiplap, had a shake covered roof, hardwood floor and a cellar underneath accessible via an inside trap door.

It was furnished with two double-decked steel bunks, stove, table, four chairs and cabinets for food and dishes. It was built under direction of Ranger Millard Evenson in 1937 at a cost of \$210.00 and was used for living quarters to replace the rat-infested log cabin. The log building was put to use for storage of oats, hay and tack.

In 1944 the cramped interior was enlarged by adding seven feet to the east end of the cabin. In 1952 the outside walls were covered with split cedar shakes to cover the tattered tar paper and add to the appearance of the building. It was used seasonally for 37 years until snow broke it down during the 1975-76 winter. Rather than rebuild it the old log cabin was remodeled and again put to use for living quarters.

(Source Evenson, Improvement Binder, Jim Davis, Hartig)

The horse corral, located near the log cabin has been rebuilt several times and always about in the same place. Russell Stadtman with a crew built the original corral in 1929. The Peterson brothers rebuilt it in 1947 and it has probably been rebuilt before and since then.

(Source Stadtman, Hartig)



Horse Camp

HORSE CAMP LOG CABIN About 1930

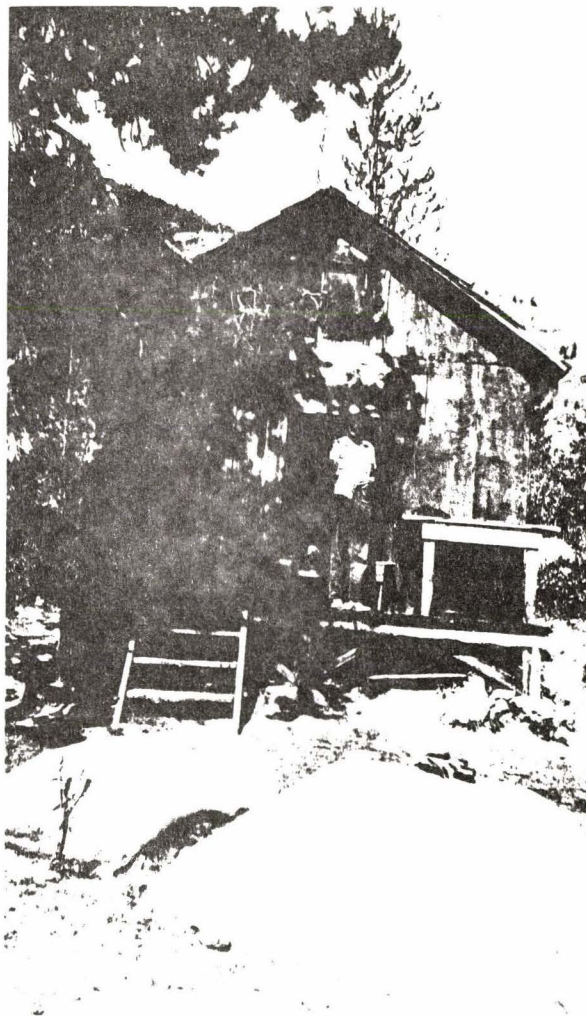
Bill McDougal

Photo: Lloyd McHone



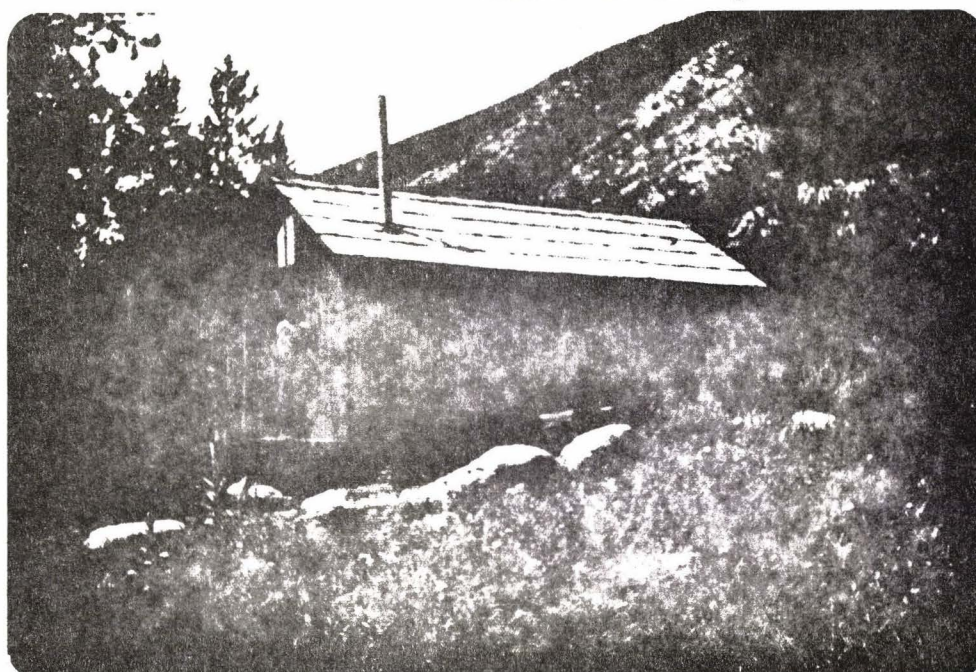
Horse Camp 1938

HORSE CAMP FRAME CABIN 1938
Wayne Tartfest and Jim Abrahms in doorway
Photo Deland Broker



Horse camp cabin NOV 1968 12/1/4

HORSE CAMP 1944
 Mrs. Lou Hartig (Mary)
 Photo: L. Hartig



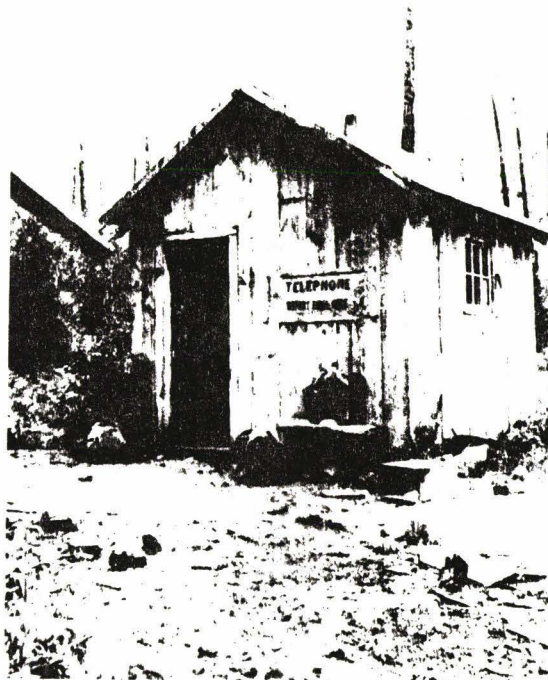
HORSE CAMP CABIN 1952

Huckleberry Cabin. NW Sec.6, Twp.34N., R.10E.

Located on Boulder Creek across from the mouth of Huckleberry Creek, this 10'x12' cabin was built for game patrol work in 1935 while Roy Lewis was Ranger on the District. Life expectancy of the cabin was short. Sills were laid flat on the ground and the two by four frame was sided with rough one by twelve boards, one layer on top of the other with tar paper in between. The roof may have been either tar paper or cedar shakes. It did not get much use as a game patrol cabin as that project was funded for only one or two years and then dropped. Maintenance crews did make some use of it, with a tent set up for additional room.

It was not long before the underpinning and the bottom of the siding began to rot and finally the floor fell into the cellar beneath the cabin. The cabin was condemned and scheduled for destruction by burning. Late one fall, I believe it was in 1953, I was up that way with the local game warden to investigate an illegal moose kill. It rained most of the day and was still raining when we arrived at the cabin on our way back to the Ranger Station so I stopped and set it afire. We stuck around to see that nothing else burned and although there did not seem to be anyone in the vicinity it was not long until a small group of hunters had congregated to see what the smoke was all about. A few of them were vocally dismayed that such a good cabin was being destroyed, it would make a dandy place for hunters to use. We never did find out who shot the moose.

(Source-Lewis, Jack Godwin, L.Hartig)



Huckleberry Cabin 1938

HUCKLEBERRY CABIN 1938

Photo: Deland Broker

Idaho Point Lookout. NENW 31, Twp.33N., R.8E. Elev. *5900'

My first visit to Idaho Point, on a cattle range inspection trip, was made in 1956. From the amount of litter, including smashed cooking utensils, tin cans and various metal parts, scattered around an area on the ridge top at the very end of the road, one got the impression that there had at one time been a camp or cabin on the site.

During all my research, however, I thought to ask about Idaho Pt. only rarely and no one I interviewed ever made any mention of the place at all. Then in 1980 while on duty tour at Lochsa Historical Ranger Station I saw a photo of Idaho Peak in an album of Lochsa District pictures that Mel Fowlkes had put together. Mel did not know where the picture originated, but it did have a 1933 date written on the back.

Since then I have again tried to find out some history of the place but so far have drawn a complete blank.

Perhaps like Grouse Ridge and Split Creek Ridge lookouts, the Idaho Point tower and cabin were built in 1933 and burned in the 1934 fire.

(Hartig)



IDAHO POINT 1933 No Credits
Photo from Lochsa Dist. Collection

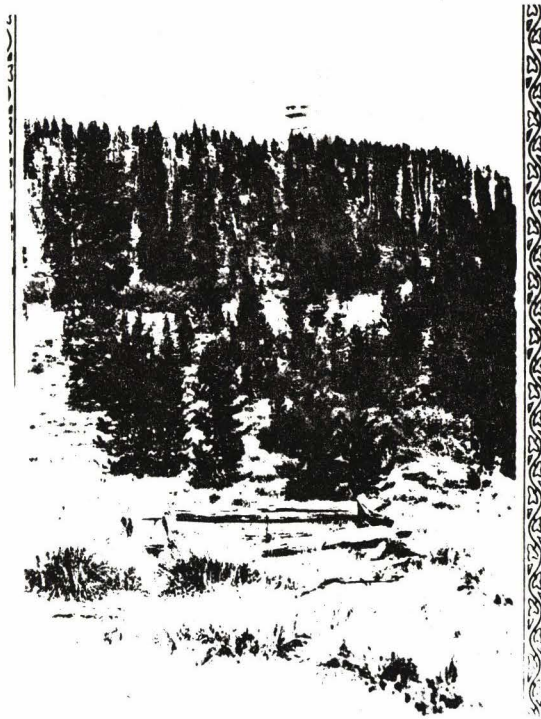
Indian Grave Lookout. SW Sec.36, Twp.37N., R10E. Elev.6446'

An L-4 cabin built on a 50' tower by the Lolo National Forest in 1955 at a cost of \$4234.00 replaced an earlier lookout structure at this point. Some time after 1956 the lookout was transferred from Powell District on the Lolo to Lochsa District. I don't remember the reason, there were no district boundary changes involved, supply distance may have had something to do with the move.

Lochsa District manned the point a few years, how many I cannot recall. An old diary reveals that Bruce Nagel manned the point during the 1959 season. The lookout was dropped from the District fire plan in a 1959 or 1960 revision.

After Powell District was transferred from the Lolo to the Clearwater National Forest in 1962, Indian Grave was given back to that District along with Mocus Point, Fish Lake and about eighty sections of land. The transfer took effect in 1963. The tower and cabin were condemned and burned, but whether by Lochsa or Powell, again I do not remember. Probably by Lochsa as I remember stopping by to check on cleanup of the site.

(Source-Investment Record and Hartig)



Indian Grave L.O. 1939

INDIAN GRAVE L.O. 1939

Photo: Owen Johnson

Lochsa Peak Lookout SE Sec.4, Twp.34N., R.9E. Elev. 4885'

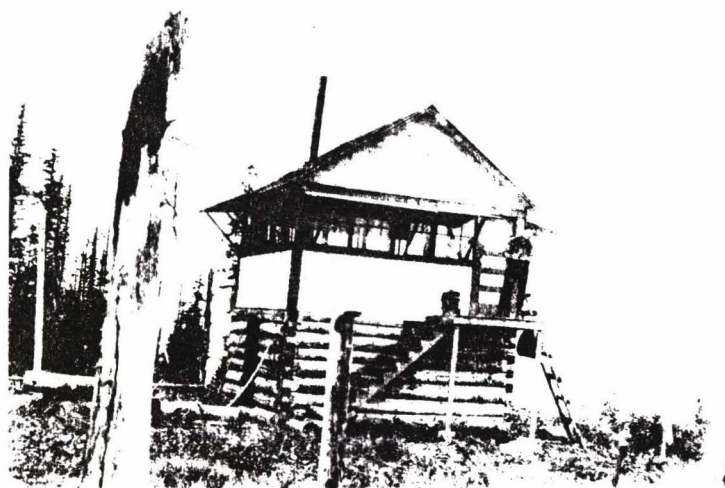
In 1930, Russel Stadtman with two or three men built the last mile of trail to Lochsa Peak and then built a trail to a water supply for the lookout. They cut the top out of a fir tree at 65' from the ground and built an open observatory (crows-nest) at the top, complete with railing and mapboard. Earnest Hartman and Harry Chenoweth soon moved in and with Stadtman's help built an L-4 cabin on an 8' high log understory. The cabin like some others of that time had no catwalk around it making for the usual difficulty in raising and lowering shutters. The point was manned each season from 1930 to 1941, then abandoned. As I remember, the cabin stood there until in the early 1950s before usable material was salvaged and the remainder burned.

(Source Russell Stadtman, Earnest Hartman, Harry Chenoweth, Hartig)



| Lochsa PK (Crows Nest) 1931

LOCHSA PEAK (CROWS NEST L.O.) 1931
Photo: Russell Stadtman



Lochsa PK 35'

LOCHSA PEAK L.O. 1933
Photo: Owen Johnson

Lochsa Ranger Station. SESE Sec. 28, Twp.35N., R.9E. Elev. 2100'

In the fall of 1924, Ranger Ralph Hand received orders from Forest Supervisor Frank Jefferson at Kooskia to move his Ranger Station from Boulder Flat to Zion Cr., about a mile down stream. Before the end of the field season, logs for a new building had been cut, skidded to the building site and peeled, and lumber for floor and casings had been whip-sawed.

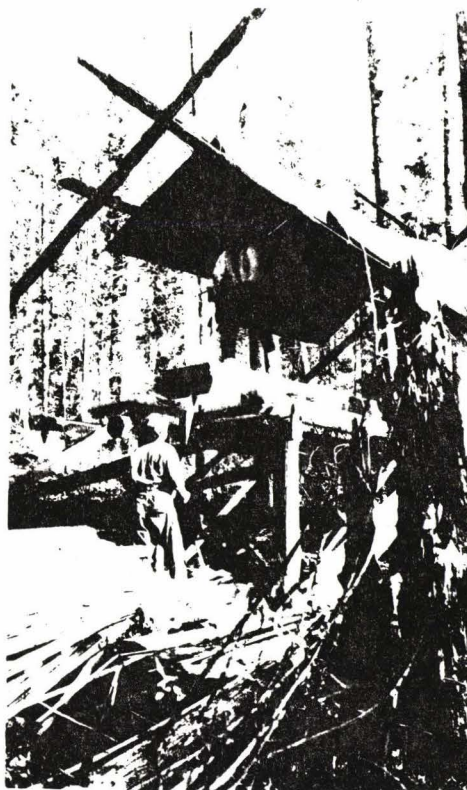
In January of 1925 Rangers Hand, Fred Shaner and Al Campbell snowshoed back in from Pete King and raised the logs for the new Ranger Station.

The building was 28' square with four rooms; a kitchen, storeroom, office and bedroom. After the roof was on they returned to Kooskia. Finish work was completed in the spring of 1925 and the building occupied that summer. The new set-up was named Zion Creek Ranger Station, a name that was used through 1927 when it was changed to Lochsa Ranger Station. 3/

The station was used until the fall of 1933 when it was burned to make room for the Ranger's dwelling. That same fall the combination building was completed and occupied as the new Lochsa Ranger Station.

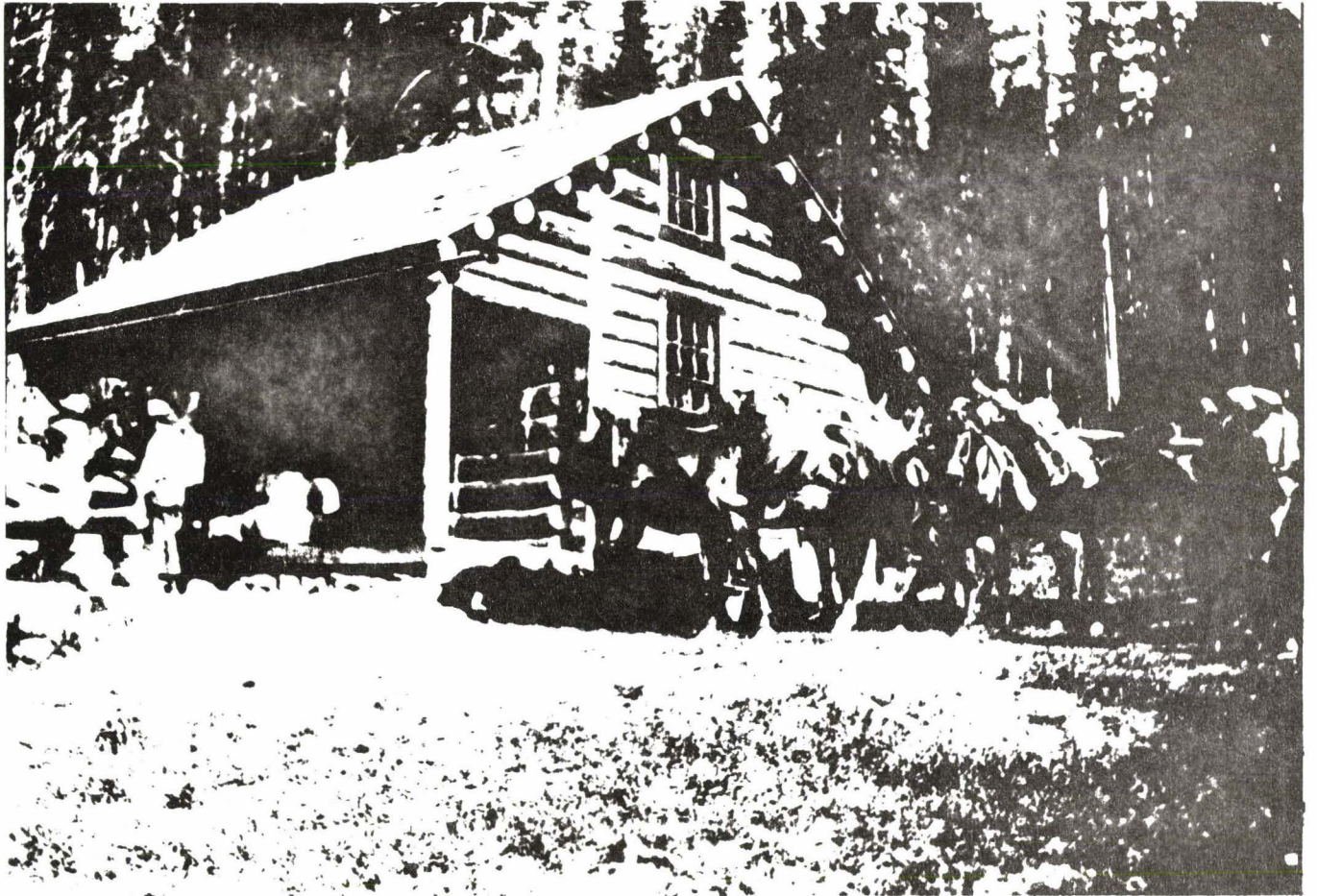
(Source-Hand, Shaner, Russell Stadtman)

3/ The reason for the name change given by Ranger Hand was that with Zion Creek, Moose Creek, Bear Creek and Meadow Creek Ranger Station, the thinking was taht the Selway was over-using the Creek bit.



LOCHSA R.S., fall, 1924
Whip sawing lumber for the new Ranger Station 4/
Roy Talmage and Otto Anderson
Photo; Unknown

4/ See Appendix Item iii



LOCHSA RANGER STATION about 1929
Photo: Unknown

Saddle Shed and Corral

The first saddle shed and corral were built by packers in 1925. Both burned in the 1934 fire. Ranger Roy Lewis built a log manger at about the same location in 1935, and hay was stored in the bunkhouse. In 1942 Ranger Herb Flodberg built a small saddle and hay shed near the manger, using lumber salvaged from the Boundary planting camp. It was not until 1944 that a 75-foot-square corral made of split cedar rails was added.

In 1952 it became evident that highway construction would encroach on the corral site, so a new location was selected just below the present corral. That summer the hayshed was skidded to the new site and a new corral and manger were built. The new corral was also made of split cedar rails.

After the highway was opened to through traffic in 1962, the days of free roaming stock at the Lochsa station were over. The limited pasture around the station was inadequate for needs, and driving loose stock up and down the highway to pasture at Boulder Flat involved too much risk. Feeding hay became a must, but hay storage was a problem. The small storage facility made it necessary to truck in hay as needed during the summer. In 1963 money became available to finance the present adequate set-up. It was built by Keith McClain, Richard Stadtman and Fred Baldwin, the same Fred Baldwin who 33 years earlier had helped build the Lochsa Ranger's office. During the 1963 winter, Charles and Jim Davis built a trail above the road from Lochsa Station to Boulder Flat. The only hazard now facing the packer on the highway was crossing it at Boulder Flat.

(Source-Ralph Hand, Lewis, Flodberg, Hartig)

Bunk House (log)

After the new Zion Creek Ranger Station was in operation, it was decided in 1926 to move the old Boulder Flat station down for use as a bunkhouse. This was done, dismantling the cabin after each log was marked so it could be fit back in its same place in the cabin. The logs were floated down river to the mouth of Zion Cr. from there they were skidded to the building site and reassembled.

Until a hay storage shed was built in 1942 this building was used for that purpose as well as a bunkhouse.

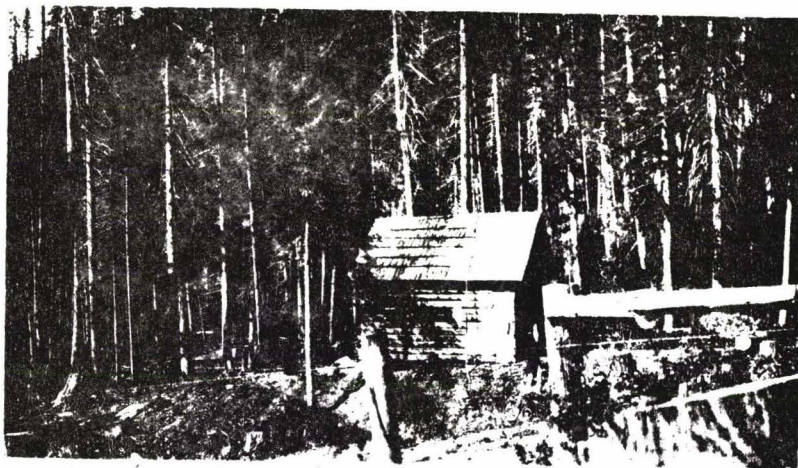
Some time after the charge for quarters went into effect we worked the building over to make it more habitable. The interior walls were hewed flat and covered with paneling, a ceiling was put in and all three windows were enlarged, a clothes closet or two were installed and a concrete block chimney built on the outside at one end, and 3/4 width beds replaced the old army cots. The number of beds in the cabin were reduced from 8 to 4. The bunkhouse was used until 1963 when a portable bunkhouse and cooks quarters were built back of the combination building. It was rarely used after new bunk space was provided.

(Source Ralph Hand, Owen Johnson, Hartig)



Lochsa R.S. 27

LOCHSA R.S. (ZION CR. R.S.) 1928
 Center building is the former Boulder Cr. R.S. which was moved down the river,
 boomed, and re-erected as a bunkhouse.
 Photo: Owen Johnson

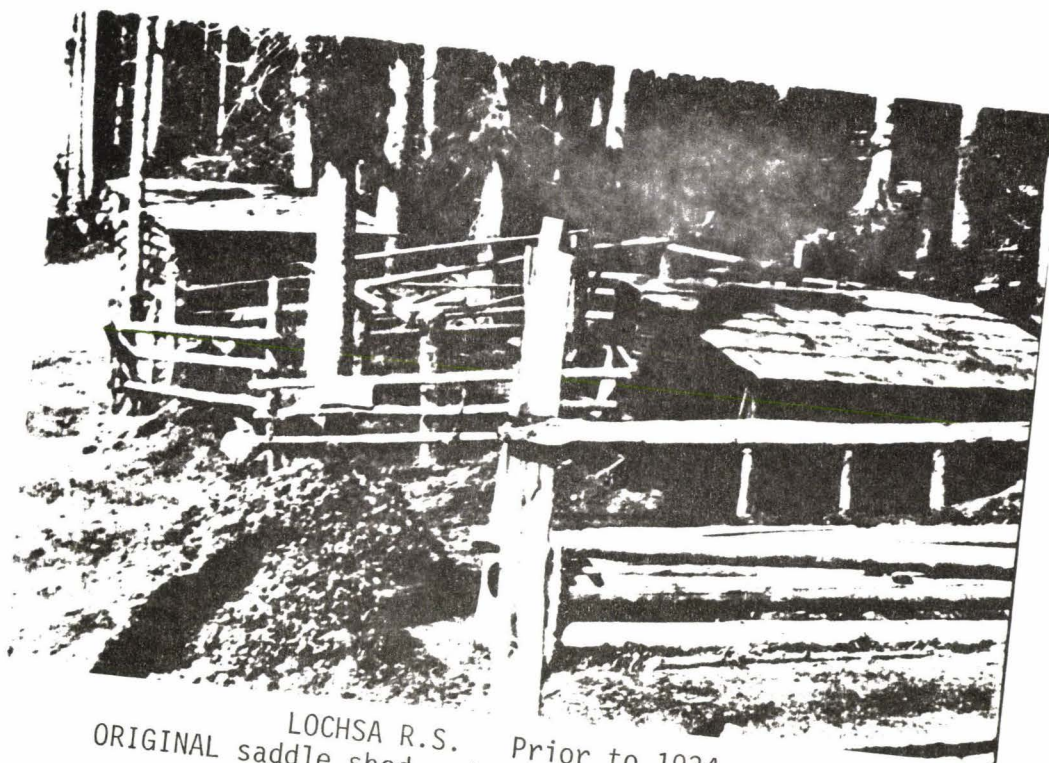


Lochsa Bunkhouse - 28

LOCHSA R.S. BUNKHOUSE CLOSEUP 1928
 Photo: Owen Johnson



LOCHSA R.S. 1928
Commissary building under construction with R. Hand and Roy Lewis placing roof logs
Photo: L.W. Lewis



LOCHSA R.S. Prior to 1934
ORIGINAL saddle shed and corral destroyed in 1934 fire

Combination Building (Lochsa R.S.)

The structure was built as four separate units over a period of five years. Each cabin was joined to its neighbor so when finished all were under one roof. A full length covered porch extended across the front of the building. The porch originally served packers as a loading and unloading dock and as a cargo platform.

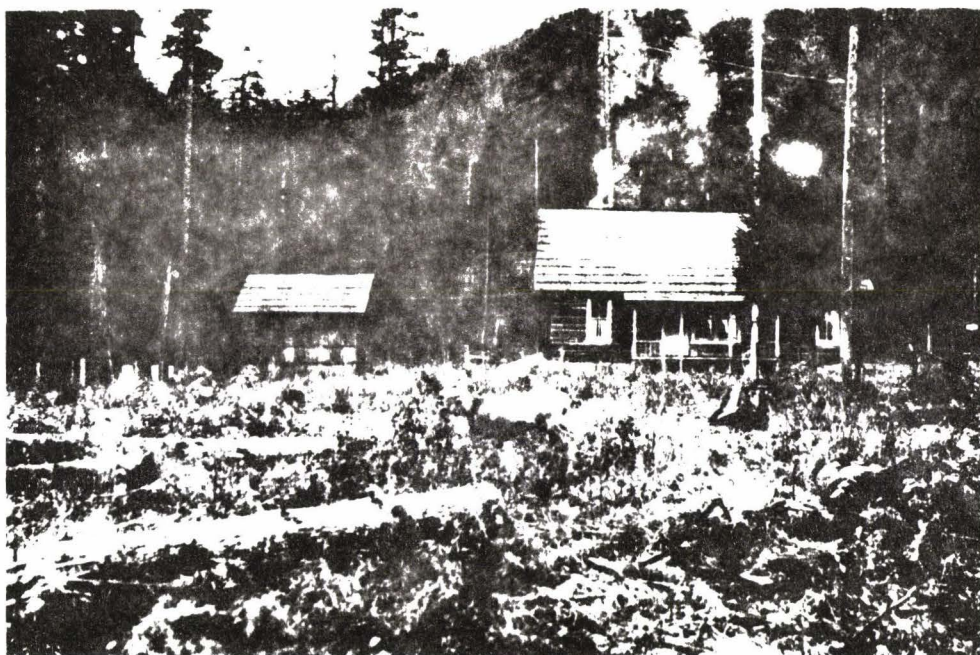
As each cabin was finished it was put to use for storage of supplies and equipment. It was not until the kitchen section, the last to be built was finished in the fall of 1933 that the combination building took over the function of a ranger station. The various units then became known as commissary, tool-room, office and kitchen. The old ranger station was burned that fall. Sections of the combination building were erected in the following order.

Commissary

It was built in 1928. Ranger Ralph Hand, Assistant Ranger George Case and smoke-chaser Tom Mattison laid the foundation and set sills and floor joists before the beginning of fire season. During the summer Ranger Hand put up the first four or five rounds of logs by himself after work hours just to have something to do for pastime. Late in the fall, Rangers Hand, Roy Lewis and Geo. Case worked on the cabin until it was finished, some time in early December.

This was the first cabin put up on the Lochsa district on which the "Swede Scribe" was used. All Selway Forest district rangers had attended an earlier training session for the purpose of learning how to use the tool. By use of the scribe, logs were marked and hewed so the top log would always fit more or less snugly over the log below it. The result was very little space between logs. Oakum was used to fill what little chink there was. In 1936, mastic as now exists was applied to the joints between logs with a caulking gun. The treatment made the walls weather proof but mice still manage to get inside.

(Source-Hand, Lewis)



LOCHSA R.S. (original Zion Cr. R.S. built 1924-25 photo about 1933
Photo: Rone Lowary



Lochsa Commissary

LOCHSA R.S.
Combination building before completion-commissary; right-office-left.

Office

Construction of this unit began in the spring of 1929. Ranger Hand assigned carpenter foreman Earnest Hartman with helpers Harry Chenoweth and Geo. Case to the construction job. Chenoweth worked until sent to his summer station at Castle Bt. Lookout, where he and Russell Stadtman built a new lookout cabin that year. The Office section was lined up with the commissary with a gap left between the two buildings.

(Source-Hartman, Chenoweth, Stadtman)

Toolroom

In 1930, Hartman and Chenoweth built the toolroom by fitting logs in the space between office and commissary sections, thus, joining the three units into a single building.

(Source-Hartman, Chenoweth, Stadtman)

Kitchen

The kitchen unit was built in the fall of 1933 by Rod Richards and Russell Stadtman. It was joined to the office section by a connecting door. The same year the old Ranger Station was burned and a new Ranger dwelling built on the site. Richards and Stadtman cut logs for both buildings on a ridge near Sherman Creek, and they were floated down river and skidded to the building sites. There the logs were peeled by Hugh Gillette and Phil Stadtman. The kitchen unit completed the combination building. While construction was in progress the crew used the rangers's office (Alternate's dwelling) for a cook house, having lost their messhall when the old station was burned.

(Source-Stadtman, Roy Lewis, Jack Godwin)

Alternate's Dwelling (Lochsa R.S.)

Ranger Fred Shaner built this cabin in 1931. Its original purpose was to serve as a Ranger's office. Carpenters were Earnest Hartman, Harry Chenoweth and Fred Baldwin. When Ranger Roy Lewis took over the District in 1932, the cabin was used as a combination ranger's office and dwelling for Lewis and wife, Mabel. After the ranger dwelling was built in 1933, the cabin was still used as a rangers office plus a place for the assistant ranger to bunk.

This arrangement continued until 1938 when a new ranger, Hans Roeffler, combined the two-office set-up in to a single office at the combination building and converted the cabin into living quarters for the assistant ranger. After the Ranger Station was moved to Kooskia the cabin was used as bunk space by various individuals or crews.

The cabin is now the reception center at the Historical R.S.

(Source-Shaner, Hartman, Baldwin, Russell Stadtman)

Ranger Dwelling-Lochsa R.S.

The greater part of this building was completed in 1933. During the summer, Slim Turnstill and helpers excavated for the basement and poured cement for the walls. After the fire season was over, Rangers Roy Lewis and Fred Shaner with Jack Godwin and Francis Pixley started work on the house, while Russell Stadtman and Rod Richards added the kitchen to the combination building. Hank Weber, erstwhile Ant Hill lookout, cooked for the men. The crew finished their work on the dwelling just before Christmas and headed for home.

Ranger Lewis and his wife moved into the house early in the summer of 1934 after interior work was finished. On August 17 the new house and all other station buildings except a hayshed and corral were saved from the flames with the help of a pacific pumper set up at the river and by bucket brigades of fire fighters. Sparks fell on the shake roofs by the thousands and hundreds of incipient blazes were doused by the fire fighters. Heat was so intense that several sections of water filled hose running from the pumper to the buildings were turned to ash and had to be replaced. Mrs. Lewis had gone out to Kooskia via Noseeum Meadows a few days ahead of the fire.

The dwelling was used by rangers until the spring of 1957 and had miscellaneous use thereafter until the Historical Ranger Station was operational in 1976.

(Source-Lewis, Godwin, Stadtman)

Woodshed.

The pole-framed, cedar-shake-covered woodshed was built by station guards in 1930. It has since been recovered with new shakes several times.

(Source-Roy Lewis, Hartig)

Paint Storage Shed.

The small log structure was built by station guards in 1934.

(Source-Roy Lewis)

Bath House.

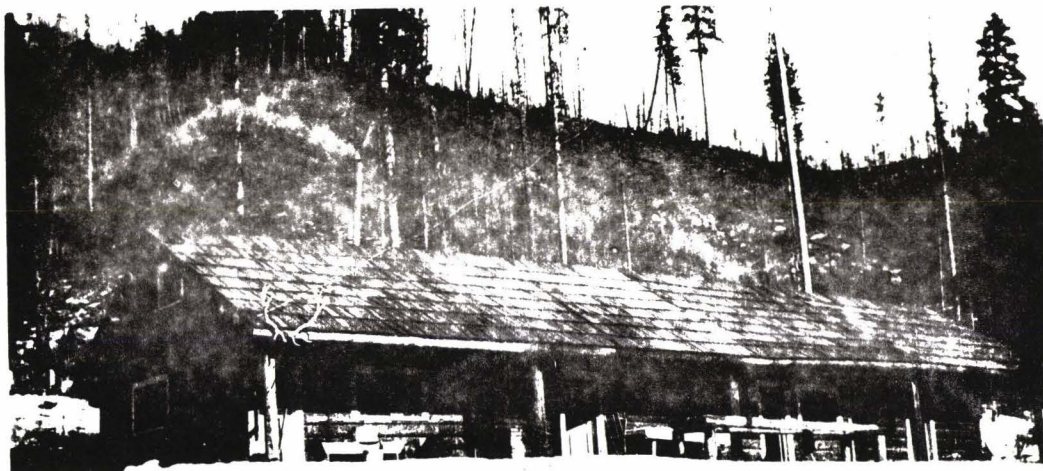
Built by the station crew in 1939. Originally, water was heated by coils in a stove made of an oil drum. In about 1954, a gas heated water tank was installed. At this writing the building has been remodeled into quarters for volunteer guides at the Lochsa Historical Ranger Station.

(Source-Hans Roeffler, Hartig)

Root Cellar.

The first root cellar was built by Earnest Hartman in 1929 and replaced a small storage space under the commissary building. In 1935 a new cellar was built at the present location at a cost of \$266.00. The builder is not known.

Restoration work was necessary on some of the buildings when the set-up was converted to a historical ranger station, included in the work was a new root cellar.



LOCHSA COMBINATION BUILDING 1935
Photo: J. Godwin



LOCHSA R.D. RANGER DWELLING 1944
Photo: L. Hartig



LOCHSA R.S. winter 1949
Photo: L. Hartig



LOCHSA HISTORICAL MUSEUM 1977
Old Boulder Creek R.S. office, converted bunkhouse at present site
Photo: L. Hartig

Lost Creek Cabin. SW Sec. 30, Twp.36N., R.11E. Elev. 2600'

In 1936, district packer Charles Smith packed lumber to a point somewhere near the north end of the present Eagle Mtn. cable bridge. The time was nearly 20 years before the bridge was built. He probably packed the lumber in from the Lolo road down Skookum Creek Trail #204, as I doubt that a pack string loaded with lumber could have negotiated the river trail from Bald Mtn. Cr. to the building site.

That fall, William "Arky" Pointer and George Anderson were moved to the location and there built an 8'x10' game counting cabin. As was customary with this type of cabin, it was built with sills flat on the ground, framed with 2x4s, and sided with the two layers of rough 1x12s with tarpaper between. The cabin replaced a tent camp that was used the winter before. Game study funds were cut off and the cabin never was used for that purpose. Maintenance crews may have made use of it on rare occasions. The cabin was burned in 1946 after a dead elk was found in the cellar beneath the cabin floor.

(Source-Hartig)

McConnell Mtn. Lookout. NWSE Sec. 23, Twp.35N., R.12E. Elev. 7424'

This point was first manned in 1918 when Fitz Eagan was Fish Lake District Ranger. The men lived in a tent camp until a cabin started in 1921 was finished by Roy Canfield and Hugh Curry in 1922. Toiva Ranta and his crew also built a telephone line from Fish Lake to McConnell in 1922. That was the same year that Ranger Al Kolmorgan moved into the new ranger station at Boulder Flat.

When the Selway Forest was split up in 1935, McConnell Mtn. went to the Powell District, however the Fish Lake-McConnell telephone line was maintained by the Lochsa District until in the mid 1950s as about half the seen area from McConnell was on the Lochsa.

(Source-Elmar Walde, Ralph Hand, Roy Lewis, Hartig, Ranta)



McCONNELL MTN. L.O. 1919

Ernest Hartman

Photo: Unknown



McCONNELL MTN. CABIN about 1922
Photo: Hugh Curry

Middle Butte Lookout. Sec.9, Twp.34N.,R.8E. Elev. 5388'

In the 1940s I saw the remains of a pole tower about 10' high on Middle Butte. I learned from Ed Gilroy, who worked on the O'Hara District in 1915, that the point was used as a lookout at least that one year.

(Source-Gilroy)

Middle Butte Planting Camp.

In 1938 and '39, the Nezperce Forest had a tree planting camp, manned by CCC crews at the head of the stream on the south side of the saddle NE from Middle Butte, and in the same section. It was on a par with the Boundary camp. When I first saw it in 1943 all of the buildings were pretty well dismantled. Nearly all planting in the Middle Butte vicinity was done by this camp. The ponderosa pine plantations down toward Bimerick and the spruce planting SE of Middle Butte are some of their work.

(Source-Hartig)

Mocus Point Lookout. SE Sec.25, Twp.36N., R.11E. Elev. 5579'

At the beginning of the 1935 fire season, the first lookout ever to man Mocus Point was moved in and set up housekeeping in a tent camp. Communication with the Ranger Station by SPF 5/ radio proved a failure, so Ranger Roy Lewis had a telephone line extended down from Gold Meadows. To increase visibility from the flat-topped ridge, Assistant Ranger Jack Godwin topped a larch tree near the tent at 55 feet and built a platform with railing at the top; in Forest Service parlance a "Crows Nest". The top of the tree projecting through the platform was used as a post on which to mount the Koch map board for the lookout map. For safety the tree was guyed at three points with steel cable and the crows nest wired for protection from lightning. Access to the top was by iron tree steps driven into the pole at proper intervals.

Not everyone could make it to the top via the iron steps so, in 1941, ten feet was cut off the top and the crows nest lowered to 45 feet and the scary iron steps replaced with a wooden ladder. The tent camp was used through 1942, then replaced with a frame cabin on the ground. The tree was used until 1949 when a tower with cabin took it out of the picture. It was felled and used for stove wood.

(Source-Lewis, Godwin, Hartig)

5/ Special Project Fire

Mocus Point Cabin.

In 1942 Ranger Herb Flodberg had material salvaged from Boundary planting camp and an abandoned lookout packed to the point. Lookout man Harry Cummings, by himself, then built a 14'x18' cabin for living quarters. District investment records show a construction cost of \$472.00. The cabin was used by the lookout through 1949 when a tower with cabin was built on the point after which it was used for storage and sleeping quarters by maintenance crews, packers and other visitors.

(Source Flodberg, Hartig)

Mocus Point Tower.

All preparatory work toward getting a tower built at Mocus Point, was done with no assurance that financing to hire skilled workers needed to frame and raise it would be forthcoming. In 1945, lookout man Norman Mohr and Fish Lake guard Monte Miles cut and peeled all timbers needed for a 40-foot tower. Larch tower legs, top cross members and a fifty foot gin pole were cut on Trail #208 at least $\frac{1}{2}$ mile toward Fish Lake Creek. Lodgepole cross braces and stair risers were cut in a patch of timber up the ridge from the lookout. To lose weight, timbers were allowed to dry most of the summer then with a team of work horses skidded to the proposed building site near the lookout tree.

In 1947 a surplus precut lookout cabin was supplied by the Couer d'Alene Forest and Pierce warehouse man, Jack Godwin was inveigled into trucking it to Jerry Johnson lookout on the Powell District. That fall District packer "Speedy" Thompson and Alternate Ranger Charley Smith, using all available District packstock, moved the cabin material across the Lochsa Canyon to Mocus Point in two trips.

There was no action in 1948 except trying to get the funds now needed to finish the job. Finally in 1949 money was provided and George Brocke, with his son Charley and Charley's wife, to cook for them, were moved to Mocus where with some help from the lookout man the construction job got underway. After cement for the four piers was poured, tower legs were framed in two pairs rather than try to make a complete assembly as shown in the plans. The gin pole was raised and anchored in part, to the old lookout tree. When everything was set I went in to help raise the legs and complete the tower assembly.

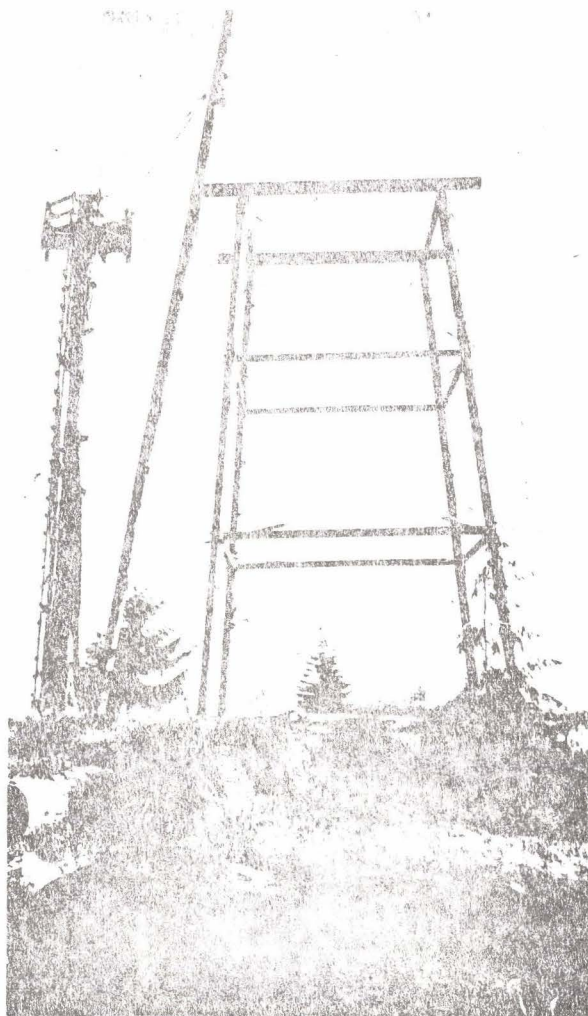
The two sections went up without a hitch and with the use of linemans climbers Charley and I had the remaining wooden and cable braces and cap logs in place by the end of the first day.

In a matter of ten days or so the Brockes with their lookout helper had the stairway and cabin in place. Mocus tower was at last a reality. According to the district investment record, cost of construction was \$2975.00 which probably included a lot of contributed (guard) time.

Mocus Point had an unusual feature in that after a short uphill climb from the water hole to the trail the way was all downhill to the tower.

The point was last manned by the Lochsa District in 1953 then dropped from the fire plan by acceptance of aerial detection and smokejumper assistance in fire suppression. Sometime after Mocus was transferred to the Powell district in 1963 it was again activated and was still in use in 1966. I believe that it has since been abandoned and destroyed.

(Source-Hartig)



APR 1965

MOCUS POINT L.O. 1949

Old tree tower to left, rigged by Jock Godwin, 1935
Original tree was 10' higher than it is in the photo
Photo: L. Hartig



MOCUS PT. L.O. (40') 1952
Photo: L. Hartig



MOCUS PT. NEW TOWER, OLD CABIN 1955

Number One Ranger Station. SE Sec.6, Twp.32N., R.6E.

The station was located on the little flat area between where the Smith Cr. road take off and Highway 12 was later built. The highway now takes over a good share of the flat.

Not too much has been learned of the early history, but there are a few facts. An old log cabin of uncertain origin at the site was used by Bitterroot Forest Reserve employees in 1904 and very likely for several years before then. It was used as an overnight stop by rangers headed out or returning from fire patrols in the country further back and there was occasional use of some duration in connection with other field work. The cabin was not referred to as a Ranger Station in early times but was called simply, cabin #1.

In the Fall of 1904, Ranger E.N. Clark with Joe Ebberly, Henry Bimerick and James Stuart stayed there while building trails in the vicinity. Their main project though was to cut logs for a new cabin. Logs were cut across the river from the old cabin, floated to the north side and with a team of horses skidded to the building site. Whether it was completed that fall is not known, but it likely was as sills were being laid when Stuart's diary ended on October 15.

Just when Number One became a year-long Ranger Station is obscure. By 1910 Ranger Joseph McGhee was stationed there, and 20 miles on upstream and accessible only by trail or river, Ranger Jim Agnew had a year-long Ranger Station at O'Hara Bar on the Selway River. A telephone line from Kooskia to Number One had been built before 1909 and a narrow dirt road reached there in 1910. Not much is known about how Number One was supplied after a road reached there but in 1917, Pete Lesinex was hauling in freight from Kooskia with a wagon and a four horse team.

Additional buildings were erected on the Number One site and as activity in the back country increased, it developed into a distribution center for the Selway National Forest.

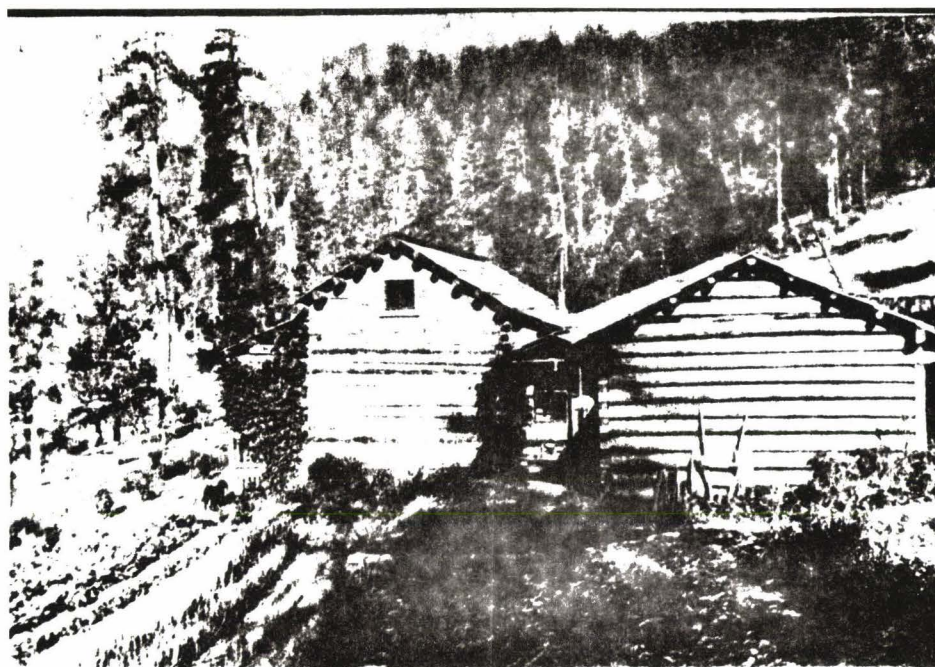
When a narrow dirt road was punched through to Pete King station in 1919, development began to pick up and that location gradually assumed the function of Selway National Forest distribution center for other Districts. However, Number One remained more or less as the Middlefork District Ranger headquarters. The 1920 Forest Service Directory lists a Middlefork District #1 and #2 though the latter is shown as having no ranger assigned.

The split District may account for the fact that a District headquarters was variously at Canyon Meadows (1916-18), Pete King (1919-24), and then back to Number One in 1925, where it remained until the Selway Forest was abolished in 1934. Upon acquisition of the Middlefork District, the Nezperce Forest again moved the ranger from Number One Ranger Station to Pete King and there he remained until the new Fenn station was completed in 1939.

Sometime after the ranger moved out of Number One station all buildings except the ranger dwelling were dismantled or destroyed. The dwelling later was used

by the Middlefork District timber sales assistant until it was transferred to the Lochsa district by the 1956 boundary changes. After that time it was used for housing by various Lochsa ranger staff men until in the late 1960s or early 70s when it was declared surplus and sold. The log building is now in the Lowell vicinity.

(Source-Wolford Renshaw, Russell Stadtman, Jim Stuart's Diary, Jack Parsell, Ray Ferguson, Ralph Space, Eva Eagan, John Gaffney, Delbert Cox, Ed Gilroy)



NO. 1 RANGER STATION 1910
Photo: C.H. Shadduck



Wine 117

NO. 1 RANGER STATION 1917

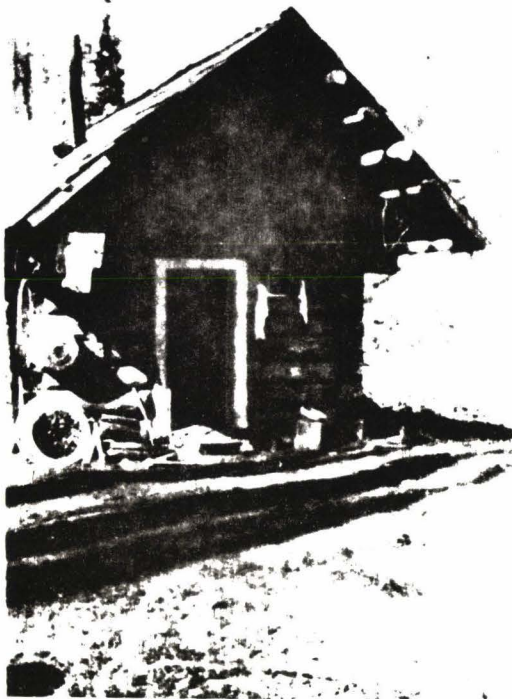
Photo: Carl Weholt

Obia Cabin. NWSE Sec.24, Twp.35N., R.8E. Elev. 3800'

Under direction of Ranger Fred Shaner the original 14 foot square cabin, built of peeled logs and roofed with split cedar shakes, was erected in 1930 by Bill McDougal and Bill McRoberts for use by maintenance crews. It was located on the east bank of Obia Creek, a few feet south of trail #224. The name of the stream was changed back to Hungry Creek in 1959, the name given it by William Clark of the Lewis-Clark expedition in 1805. The log cabin burned in the 1934 fire.

In 1935 Ranger Roy Lewis had an 8'x10' frame game counting cabin built at the same location. It did get occasional winter use by rangers on game patrol and with a tent supplement was used by trail and telephone line maintenance crews nearly every year until the line was abandoned and tote goat cycles came into general use in the late 1950s. In 1948 new sills and floor were installed, an improvement that caused the cabin to outlast its contemporaries at Bald Mtn. Cr. and Huckleberry Cr. It was still standing in 1966 but never used except perhaps by hunters.

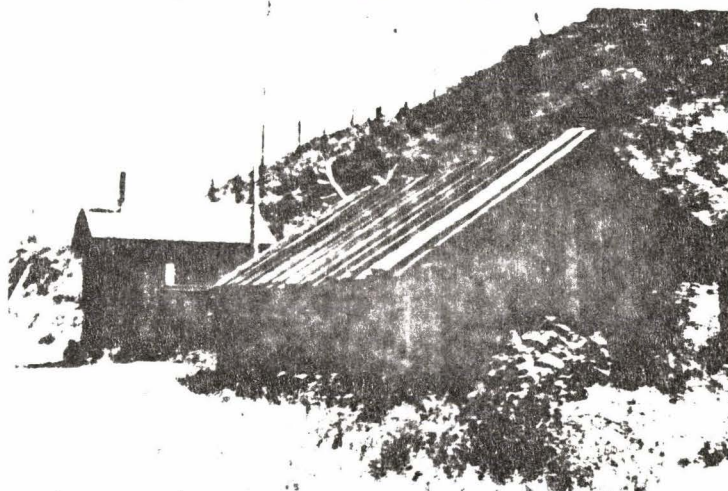
(Source-Shaner, Lewis)



Obia Cabin 24'

OBIA CABIN 1927
Destroyed in 1934 fire
Photo: Lloyd McHone

Obia cabin



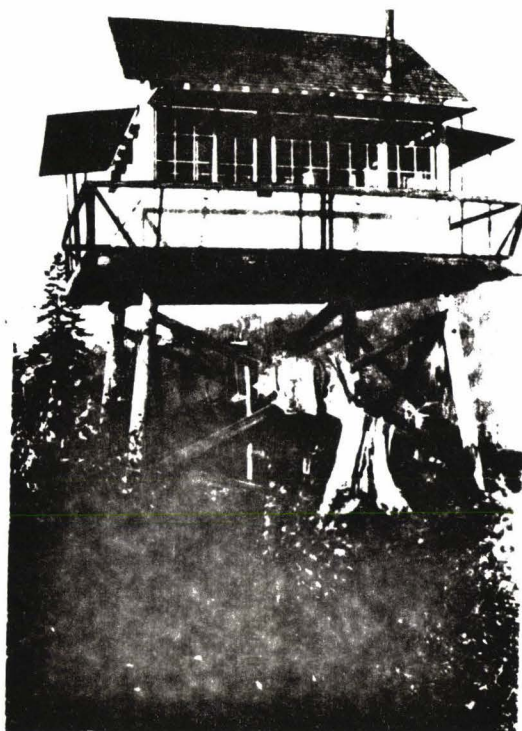
Obia Cabin at back - temp. shelter in front

OBIA CABIN (IN BACK), TEMPORARY SHELTER (FRONT) 1938
Photo: Les Felton

Old Man Point. SW Sec.20, Twp.34N.,R.9E. Elev. 5012'

Ranger Roy Lewis manned the point for the first time in 1931 by setting in a tent camp with Bill Dennison as lookout. That same year carpenters Earnest Hartman and Harry Chenoweth were moved in and with Dennison's help built a 20 foot high log tower on which they assembled a pre-cut L-4 lookout cabin. Material for the cabin was packed in from Bimerick cabin via the Lochsa River trail. The Old Man tower was another of those ill fated structures that were over run by the 1934 fire. It went up in smoke on August 17, a day or so after the lookout had been called to Lochsa Station for fire fighting duty.

(Source-Hartman, Chenoweth, Dennison, Lewis)



Old man pt 51

OLD MAN PT. 1931

Photo: Lloyd McHone

Pete King Station. Sec.33, Twp.33N.,R.7E. (The Highway Dept. Flemming Maintenance Station now occupies this site)

The first Forest Service building on this site was started in 1908 when Harvey and Hubert Renshaw with Lee Engle among others, cut, skidded, peeled and hewed logs for a four room, two story dwelling at the upper end of the flat. They also whip sawed lumber for floors and trim.

(Source--Wolford Renshaw)

The dwelling was erected in 1909 and, according to investment records, total cost of construction was \$589.00. From the few facts unearthed, it seems to have been used as a sort of work center until 1919 when nomadic Middlefork District Ranger Charlie McGregor moved his headquarters from No. One and Canyon Meadows to Pete King.

(Source Elmer Walde, Ed Gilroy, Wolford Renshaw, Jack Parsell, Bessie Monroe)

During the winter of 1919, the river road reached Pete King and by the following summer the station began to take over from No. One the function of a packing and distribution center for the Selway National Forest. The complex soon developed to include, in addition to the dwelling, a cookhouse, commissary, warehouse, bunkhouses, blacksmith shop, barn, corral, a small office and a root cellar.

From 1919 to 1924 Pete King was headquarters for the Middlefork District. In 1925, Ranger Jack Parsell moved the headquarters back to No. One station. Though a 1920 Forest Service Directory shows Middlefork Districts No. 1 and No. 2, it lists one unit with "No ranger". It was agreed by the old time rangers contacted that one ranger was in charge of both units, at least in the early 1920s.

(Jack Parsell, Ray Ferguson, Carl Weholt, Don Chamberlain)

In 1923 the original log dwelling was moved from the upper end of the flat to the lower end which was a more suitable location. The move made possible a more orderly placement of other structures. The moving was done by Rangers Ralph Hand, Jack Parsell and Al Campbell with the aid of a stump puller and a team of mules.

(Source-Ralph Hand)

When the Selway Forest was split up following the 1934 fire the Middlefork District went to Nezperce National Forest and district headquarters was moved back to Pete King and there it stayed until the two-district ranger setup was completed at Goddard Bar, now Fenn Ranger Station. In late 1939 and early 1940 the Middlefork Ranger from Pete King and the Selway District Ranger from O'Hara Ranger Station transferred their headquarters to the new station at Fenn.

(Source Jack Gaffney, Del Cox)

When Lochsa district acquired Pete King through boundary adjustments in 1956, most of the old Forest Service utility buildings were gone.

There were several dwellings of more recent origin on the site that were all under special use to Middlefork District employees and Lewis-Clark highway construction personnel. The Highway Dept. also maintained an office and small warehouse there. There was even a school house complete with pupils and teacher. The Forest Service furnished a free use dwelling for the teacher.

After the highway was punched through to Montana in 1962, the place went into decline. As soon as a building was vacated it was sold and moved away. The old school house is still somewhere in the Lowell vicinity.

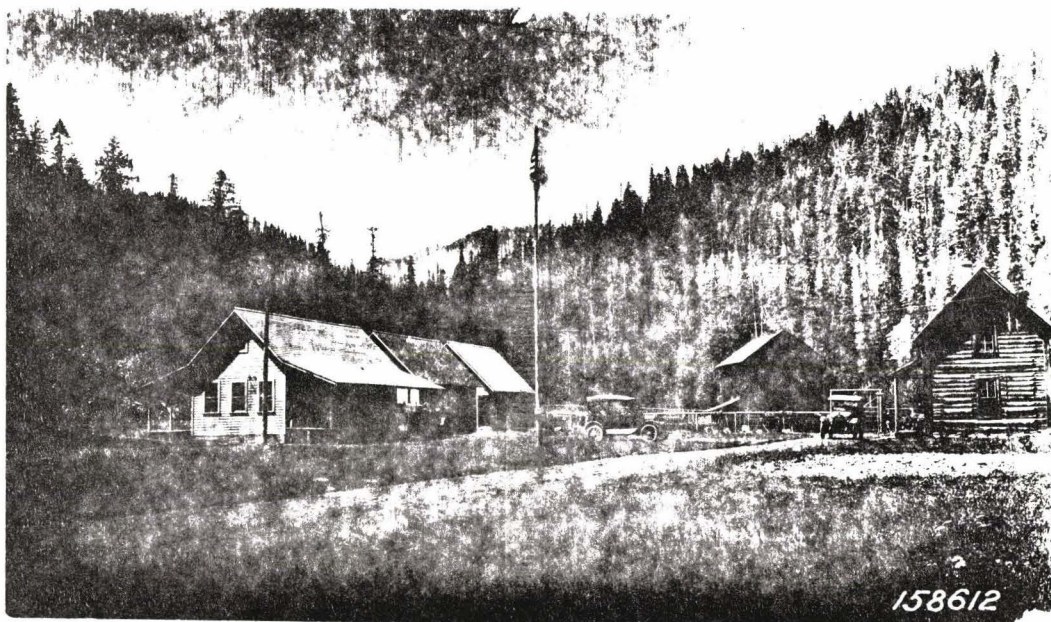
The sturdy old log dwelling built in 1908 and 09' was the last to go. It was burned in the 1960s after the State Highway Dept. applied for and was granted a special use permit to build a maintenance station on site. The place is now known as Flemming Maintenance Station, named after supervisory engineer Carl Flemming, who on May 9, 1963, became the first fatality on the Lochsa portion of the Lewis-Clark Highway. He played a major role in engineering the highway and died when his vehicle plunged into the river as he swerved to avoid an oncoming auto. His body was never recovered.

(Source-Hartig)



Beck's Dwelling

PETE KING R.S. 1919



PETE KING R.S. 1921

L - Commissary, warehouse, Blacksmith shop

C - Barn

R - Log dwelling that Rangers Hand, Parsell and Campbell moved to Lower (left) end of flat in 1923



PETE KING R.S. Aug., 1927

L - Office, Commissary, whse, RS. Shop.

R - Cookhouse w/bunkhouse barely visible in back.



JAN 1969

PETE KING CREEK CABIN

This cabin is on privately owned land at the mouth of Pete King Cr.

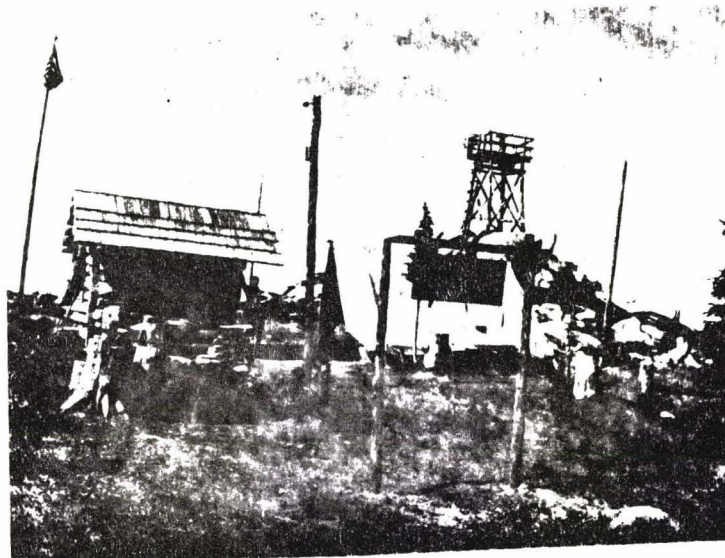
Rhoda Point Lookout. SESE Sec.16, Twp.34N., R.11E. Elev. 6882'

The first time that this emergency lookout was ever manned was in 1937 when Ranger Millard Evenson was in charge of the district. That year William "Arky" Pointer and a two-man crew built a telephone line from End Butte out to Rhoda Point. The three men then set their tent camp on the ridge near the point and on the boulder-strewn hilltop they built a 20-foot-high observation tower.

A short distance from the tower they then built a cabin of peeled logs with a split cedar shake roof. The cabin was only about 8x10 feet in size and was built primarily for off-season storage of camp equipment to avoid packing everything back to the ranger station or Horse Camp cabin. It was also used for sleeping quarters by the lookout man. Cooking was done under a tent and fly out front.

Daland Broker manned the point during the 1938-39 seasons. In 1938 he was given two helpers to build a telephone line on down to Doe Point, another emergency lookout. With the twomen to help he also cleared the fire break around the Rhoda Point tower and cabin. The lookout was manned through the 1941 season then dropped from the fire plan. Although it was not learned that the structures were burned, it is assumed that they were.

(Source-Daland Broker)



Rhoda Point 1938

RHODA POINT L.O. 1938
Photo: Daland Broker



Rhoda Pt. 1937

RHODA PT. L.O. 1938
Photo: Daland Broker

Rye Patch Ranger Station. SE Sec.8, Twp.33N., R.7E. Elev. 4400'

Most early day cabins were called "Ranger Station" though in fact they may have been used only for overnight or temporary occupancy. The cabins were far from being Ranger Stations as we think of them later. Ranger Ray Fitting said of Sixty Two cabin built in 1908: "We constructed a cabin near the spring and glorified it by calling it a Ranger Station". Rye Patch may fit this category.

This was one of the older cabins on the forest and though the origin is unknown there is enough information available on which to base opinions and assumptions.

I passed by the place in 1961 and again in 1965, both times beginning the trip at the upper end of Trail #708. I gave little thought to the historical significance of the place. It was just another old cabin site. Allowing for the frailty of human memory this is what I recall.

In 1961, two of us stopped at the site, which is located on a little bench, squarely on top of the ridge between Rye Patch and Nut Creeks and just a few feet NE of the trail. Our examination of the site was superficial, just enough to satisfy ourselves that a structure of some kind had once stood there and assuming that it had been Rye Patch cabin, then we went on down the trail.

A hundred feet or so SE of the cabin on the Rye Patch Creek side and just below the trail we saw the remains of a split rail fence. The fence could only have enclosed the Rye Patch pasture after which the place was named. There was, however, little evidence of a pasture, brush and reproduction had taken over. It was evident that on this timbered ridge it would have been impossible to hold horses unless inside a fence or tied up.

From two photos of the cabin, with a man in one for a gauge, it appears that the building was 16' square, exclusive of the covered porch. Somewhat larger than a trapper would spend time on and a trapper would have no need for a fenced pasture. It seems safe to assume that Rye Patch complex was built by rangers.

No one so far contacted knows when the cabin was built, but Jim Stuart's diary has a clue that it was there in the spring of 1905. On the morning of June 2, 1905 Stuart and 3 men left their trail camp 3 miles downriver from Pete King Cr. and traveled 7 miles to Rye Patch where they met Ranger Rackcliff and 3 men. The 8 men, with a minimum of 16 horses spent the night there. Unless the fenced pasture was there, Rye Patch would be a most unlikely place to hold horses overnight. It was only another 4 or 5 miles on their route to good pasture at Cedars cabin. Seven miles isn't much of a day's travel.

In 1908-09 action was initiated to withdraw a 24-acre administrative site at Rye Patch from public entry. The withdrawal dates have no significance regarding actual use as delayed action to withdraw a site was not uncommon.

The first verified information of existence of the cabin came from ex-Forest Service packer Oral Flynn, who told of camping there for several weeks as a member of Bert Cressler's telephone line construction crew in 1909. The crew used the cabin as a cook-house and mess hall and their short-string packer pastured his mules in the enclosed pasture. Flynn said that in 1909 the place was used only by an occasional maintenance crew or packer as an overnight stop.

Wolford Renshaw told of staying overnight at Rye Patch in 1911. He was with two packers who were taking a telephone line construction crew over toward Rocky Ridge. The place was unoccupied at the time.

In 1914 when Fitz Eagan and Ed Gilroy packed lumber to Bald Mtn., their first overnight stop after leaving Pete King was at the cabin on Fish Creek. Gilroy thought that Rye Patch was then seldom, if ever, used even as a packer camp.

Ranger Ralph Hand and a companion on a snowshoe trip from Pete King to Boulder Creek Ranger Station in March of 1923 passed by Rye Patch. Hand mentioned the cabin as being apparently abandoned.

Final disposition of the cabin is not known. A 1935 photo shows the tired old building bulging at the sides. Judging from the appearance of the site in 1961, the cabin had been burned.

(Source-Jim Stuarts diary, Lochsa files, Oral Flynn, Ralph Hand, Wolford Renshaw, Ed Gilroy, Hartig)



Rye Patch 25-24

RYE PATCH R.S. 1922 or '23
(Negative says Rye Grass)
Photo: Hugh Curry

Sherman Creek Cabin. About Sec.10, Twp.35N., R.9E. Elev. *4000'

The cabin was located on Sherman Creek trail about five miles from Lochsa Ranger Station and was intended for maintenance crew use. Fred Shaner was Ranger in charge of the District when smokechasers cut and skidded logs for the building in 1931. Bill Dennison did the skidding with a team of horses.

In 1932 Ranger Roy Lewis took over the District and that spring Harry Chenoweth with another smokechaser built the cabin. It didn't get to see much use as the 1934 fire burned it to the ground.

After the fire, a trail from Grouse Ridge via Sherman Cabin to Noseeum Butte was dropped from the system. There was then not enough need for the cabin to justify rebuilding.

(Source-Fred Shaner, Bill Dennison, Harry Chenoweth, Roy Lewis and Russell Stadtman)

Sixty Two Ranger Station. Sec. 14, Twp.33N., R.11E. Elev. 7079'

The place name was derived from the date, July 17, 1862, carved on a tree at the spring where the cabin was later built. When Ranger E.N. Clark and Jim Stuart camped there in 1904 on their way to a fire at the Three Forks of Moose Creek, Stuart referred to the place as 62 camp, so the name was seemingly of earlier origin.

During the summer of 1908, Ray Fitting and other Forest Service employees camped at Sixty Two long enough to build a "Ranger Station" at the spring near the crest of the ridge. It was located about 3/8 mile south of Big Rock. The Ranger Station was about 14'x16' with one room, dirt floor, no windows and cooking was done over an outside camp fire. It was used mainly for sleeping and storage.

Sixty Two could have been the second Forest Service-built cabin on what was/or was to be Fish Lake Ranger District. The cabin at Fish Lake either predated it or was less well constructed. Ed Gilroy, who saw both cabins in 1914, reports that Sixty Two still had a fairly new look while Fish Lake cabin was already pretty well shot.

Not too much is known of what use 62 cabin had prior to 1914, but a few facts have been found. Ray Fitting began work for the Forest Service in 1907. What his title was that year is not known, but his nephew Ed Gilroy says that Ray was a ranger in the Fish Lake country from 1909 to 1914. Fitting made some use of 62 cabin but he also used the Schissler cabin or Three Forks Ranger Station as it came to be known, (See Three Forks R.S.) but most of his time was in the field with his crew.

In 1910 Ranger Fitting used the cabin as an operating base while fighting a 200-acre fire in Three Links Creek. Fitting records that in 1910, Leo Wilcox worked at the station and occupied the position of lookout-fireman, dispatcher, packer and cook and in his spare time was supposed to work on the cabin. Facetious or not, the statement does indicate at least parttime occupancy.

As soon as the Three Links fire was controlled Fitting was sent to fires on the North Fork of Moose Cr., whether any one was left at 62 will never be known. Schissler cabin became a base for some of the Moose Cr. fire fighters and the fires became a part of the great August 20 blowup that involved much of North Idaho's woods. Ray Fittings story of his experiences during the blowup is most interesting.

In 1912 Ranger Fitting headed a crew that built an excellent trail from Sixty Two to Rhoda Creek where it connected to the Beaver Slide Trail (#218) that climbed out toward Two Lakes.

In 1913, Ranger Fitting with Ed Gilroy, Floyd Newland and Jack Van Horn built nine miles of telephone line from the Selway River to Sixty Two R.S. The Ranger Station also acquired a lumber floor in 1913, the lumber being packed in from No. One R.S. Later the same year Fitting took the telephone crew and Alec McClendon, Charley Halford and Lee Hawkins over to Jack Knife Meadows, from where they started work on a trail over toward Grave Peak. Ed Gilroy thought that after the trail crew left 62 in 1913 that the place was unmanned.

In 1914, Al Peterson and Ed Gilroy were stationed at Sixty Two as smokechaser and lookout. Ed thought that it was the first regularly-manned lookout point on the Fish Lake District. Asked about other lookouts on the Forest, he mentioned Castle Butte, Coolwater and Fish Butte. There could have been others but he was not aware of them. The two men built a pole ladder to reach the top of Big Rock and there installed a Koch mapboard. They also made regular horse patrols out toward Eagle Mtn. and Shasta Lake. The cabin now had a telephone and a floor, but cooking was still done over a campfire in front of the cabin.

In 1914 Fitting was using Three Forks R.S. as a base although he was seldom there. During the season, a fire on the river slope below Gold Meadows developed to project size and Ranger Fitting was assigned the fire boss job. Before the fire was controlled he was transferred off the Forest and Alec McClendon took over for the remainder of the season which was not long.

Ranger Fitting's jurisdiction seems to have covered the country encompassed by Shasta Lake, Sixty Two, Three Forks, head of Warm Springs Creek to the Lochsa River.

By 1915 District boundary changes had placed Sixty Two on the O'Hara District and made major changes in the shape of the Fish Lake District. It now included area on both sides of the Lochsa River and lay roughly between the North Fork of Moose Creek and the Lolo Trail and reached from around Indian Postoffice to Sherman Saddle. In the summer of 1915 Fish Lake District Ranger Fitz Eagan established a seldom used tent headquarters at Castle Butte, and Eagle Mountain was added to the detection system. The District now had two regularly manned seasonal lookout points.

No attempt was made to determine the fate of Sixty Two cabin. Big Rock was used as a lookout for a number of years, then a new tower called High Springs was built on 62 Ridge about 1½ miles south of Sixty Two, which was then abandoned.

(Source-Ed Gilroy, Ray Fittings story of Moose Cr. Fire, E. Wolford Renshaw and Bill Apgar)



NOV 1970

Sixty two 1912 or 1913

SIXTY-TWO L.O. CABIN 1912 or 1913
Photo furnished by Ed Gilroy

Smith Creek Work Center. NE Sec. 29., Twp.34N., R.6E. Elev. *2000'

Following completion of Smith Cr. road to Smith Saddle in 1953, and subsequent logging in that area, the Middlefork District of the Nezperce Forest installed the first buildings at the center in 1954. By 1956 the camp consisted of three bunk-houses about 12'x16' that bunked four men each, a shake-covered oil house, an old building of uncertain origin that had been hauled in and remodeled into a cookhouse and messhall, and the old Bimerick cabin that was moved in and converted to a bath-house of sorts. A tent or two completed the layout. The 1956 boundary change gave the camp to Lochsa District.

As the workload and crew size increased, existing facilities became inadequate. Beginning in 1958 the camp began to take on a new look. New 12'x24' portable buildings began to replace the salvaged cabins. Some were built on the site while others were winter projects at Kooskia. First built was a cookhouse made of two units joined in a T shape. Then the bathhouse was replaced, followed by two additional bunkhouses, cooks quarters, warehouse and a new oil house built on the edge of the site.

Before the new bunkhouses could be set in, more space was needed, so a culvert was installed to carry the small stream under the area. Drain tile was buried at the back of the somewhat swampy site to drain water into the little creek. Then to provide a solid base on which to build, a dozer was used to trample rock into the swampy ground. The result was room left over for a much needed parking area.

Purpose of the center was to house those employees assigned to the camp who had no other place to stay. Some local men also choose to stay at camp rather than make the daily trip to and from home. The work center placed men near the job. Travel regulations then, were not as relaxed as they now are. Travel from official station to the job, up to one hour daily, was on employee time and travel back to camp was official time. Smith Cr. was the officail station for regularly stationed personnel there, which meant that those who stayed elsewhere had to be at camp around 7 to 7:30 A.M. each work day.

Travel was on wooden seats in the back of a 1½ ton flatbed truck with a canvas canopy on bows over the rack to keep out weather, it also held in dust. The bone jarring ride was not the most pleasant aspect of the job. It was not until the Job Corp came along in 1965 outfitted with busses for the men that some rangers demanded equal rights for their brush crews. In 1966 the Smith Cr. crew rode to work in style in a rented bus.

At the time the camp was installed, all slash was piled as soon as possible after logging and burned in the fall of the same year. Slash disposal and timber stand improvement work were the chief functions of the Smith Creek crew. In the late 1960s, or early 70s, some of the Smith Creek buildings were moved to Canyon Meadows work center.

(Source-Hartig)

Split Cr. Ridge Lookout. NENW S.5 Twp.33N., R9E. Elev. 5660'

Earl Bollman and Delbert Cox built a 30-foot tower on the ridge in 1931. In 1934, the structure was destroyed by fire and the point was dropped from the fire plan.

(Source-Delbert Cox)

Sponge Mountain Lookout. On line between sec.29-30, Twp.34N., R.11E. Elev. 7349'

Gold Meadows lookout was manned for the last time in 1938 with Jim Abrams holding down the lookout-fireman post. The next year the tent camp was set up two miles south of Gold Meadows, at Sponge Mountain and that point was used for the observation station. Camp was near the Fish Lake Saddle-Mocus Point telephone line so a phone was tied in. Sponge Mtn. was manned through the 1941 season and then abandoned. No structures were ever built at this point.

(Source-Hans Roeffler, Les Felton)

Stanley Butte Lookout. NE Sec.33, Twp.34N., R.11E. Elev. 7362'

Stanley was manned as a lookout point for the first time in 1921 when Marion Strine and an unidentified companion were moved up there and set up housekeeping in a tent camp. In 1922, fire guards, including lookout Strine, built a 12'x14' log cabin about 200' NW from the mountain top.

A post on which to fit a Koch mapboard was wedged into the rock outcrop on the very top of the butte, in time a puncheon floor was laid around the post and a safety railing was installed. Lightning protection was added in the 1930s and later yet an Osborne firefinder replaced the Koch Board.

The cabin eventually acquired a hardwood floor, ceiling and walls covered with shiplap lumber. Also installed were mouse-proof cabinets for storage-no more mouse droppings in food and dishes.

Progress finally caught up with Stanley when smokejumpers and aerial detection made the place obsolete. In 1949 young Jim Mitchell manned the place for the last season. The cabin was condemned and burned in 1954.

(Source-Al Kolmorgan, Fire records, Herb Flodberg)



Stanley Butte 1923

STANLEY BUTTE CABIN 1923

Lookout Point is to the right of cabin, the mapboard is visible atop the rock in next photo.

Photo: Hugh Curry



STANLEY BUTTE CABIN 1937
Photo: Daland Broker

Van Camp Lookout. NE Sec.32, Twp.34N., R.8E. Elev. 4377'

Late in the 1925 fire season, Middlefork District Ranger Ray Fergeson sent firemen Earl Whitney and Russell Stadtman to Van Camp to man the point as a lookout for the remainder of the summer. Stadtman saw no evidence of an earlier camp and believes that the place was being manned for the first time. The two men set their tent camp near a water supply in the first saddle north of Van Camp about 3/8 mile from the lookout point. They made regular morning and evening patrol trips to the point, except following lightning activity when more time was spent on lookout duty. When weather conditions permitted they brushed trail toward Middle Butte.

Van Camp is not a prominent point, it is flat topped and was at that time covered with scattered, low growing brush with no trees to obstruct the view. The men had no mapboard or lookout map, if a smoke was spotted a smoke chaser map was oriented flat on the ground and an azimuth bearing taken with a pocket compass.

A photo taken at Van Camp by Stan Bryant in 1927 shows a lookout tree with a observation platform (crows nest) 50 feet or so above ground. The corner of a tent visible in the photo indicates that the lookout camp had been moved to the top of the peak. The caption under the picture states that Jerry Dipoled and Stan Bryant manned the lookout that year.

The next information about Van Camp is that a pre-cut L-4 lookout cabin was built there in 1931 at a cost of \$506.00. The cabin was one of the few L-4s built without understory or tower. It was set on log sills laid on a few stones to keep them off the ground. It has not been learned how often or how long the place was manned but it had long been abandoned when boundary changes gave it to the Lochsa District in 1965. The cabin was burned in 1960 after lightning protection wire had been salvaged. By that time the building was pretty well shot and trees had grown up around it so that visibility was limited to the small clearing around the cabin.

The cabin was built by the Selway National Forest and went to the Nezperce when the Selway was divided in 1934 and came to the Clearwater Forest in 1956.

(Source-Stadtman, Hartig, Bryant's photo and Lochsa District investment record)



VAN CAMP L.O. August 23, 1930
Old L.O. and new cabin

Walde Mountain Lookout. SENW Sec. 30, Twp. 34N., R.7E. Elev. 5000'

It has not been learned when Walde Mountain was first used as a regular lookout station. When lookout-fireman John Austin in 1919 made fire patrols from his station at Cedars cabin one of the patrol routes was five miles south of Walde. Since little could be seen from the ground on the flat topped, timbered mountain it can be assumed that he rigged up some kind of a lookout-tree. Timber sales personnel in the 1960s located several trees equipped with tree spikes, for climbing, in the Pete King-Canyon Creek area.

Be that as it may, a 100' steel tower with a glass-enclosed observatory at the top was built on the mountain by the Nezperce National Forest in 1939 at a cost of \$5143.00. Material for the structure was hauled in either by way of Suttler Creek or Glenwood to Mystery Saddle, then over a newly built shoo-fly road to the top of the mountain. In 1941, a 14'x16' well built log cabin with a shake-covered roof, that projected 6' over a plank floored porch, was built for lookout living quarters by the same forest at a cost of \$219.00. The new cabin was located only a few feet from the steel tower. The point was transferred from Middlefork District to Lochsa District by a boundary change in 1956.

Of the many lookouts manned on the Lochsa District since the first were established on Castle Butte and Sixty Two (and maybe Fish Butte) in 1914, Walde was one of the last to enter the picture and was also the last to be eliminated. It was manned for the last time during the 1979 summer then it too fell victim to modern technology in the field of fire detection and suppression. The log cabin was condemned and burned in 1979, though the steel tower still stands.

(Source-Lochsa investment records, Hartig)

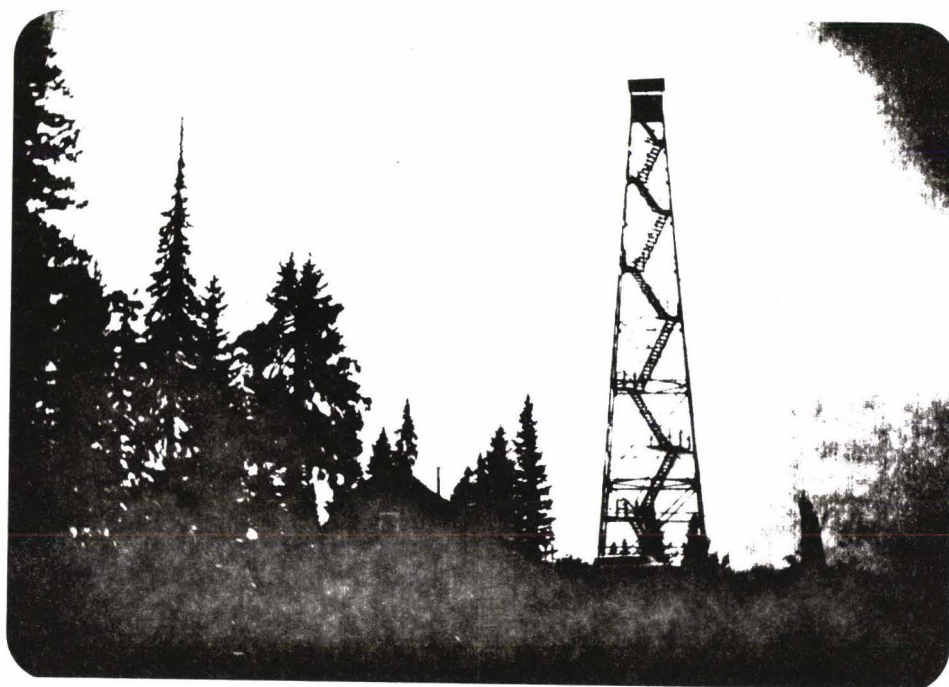
The mountain was named for Elmer Walde who worked on the Middlefork District in 1919-20 and was Fish Lake District Ranger from December 1920 to August 1921. He was then detailed to project ranger on building construction at Pete King. In the spring of 1919 with a seven man crew he built a sheep driveway from Mystery Saddle down a ridge to Canyon Creek. The driveway followed the approximate route of what is now Trail #135. During the fire season that year he was assigned to chase smoke from Fish Butte. In August he saw the Fire Creek blaze blowup and burn from Fire Cr. to beyond Boulder Creek and into Sherman Creek in a matter of three hours.

Mr. Walde resigned from the Forest Service before the end of 1922. Also in 1922 he married Lottie Parry, daughter of Lowell pioneers William and Maude Parry. The source of the names Maude and Lottie Lakes, Maude Cr. and Lottie Cr. are derived from the names of the Parry women. Chain Meadows was at one time also known as Parry's Saddle.

Mr. Parry began work on the Bitterroot Forest Reserve shortly after it was established and spent part of his time on seasonal fire patrols in the Fish Lake-Three Fork areas. He worked until at least 1905 and perhaps a year or so longer. He then acquired his own stock and packed commercially both for the Forest Service and for private parties including the 1908-09 railroad survey on the Lochsa River.

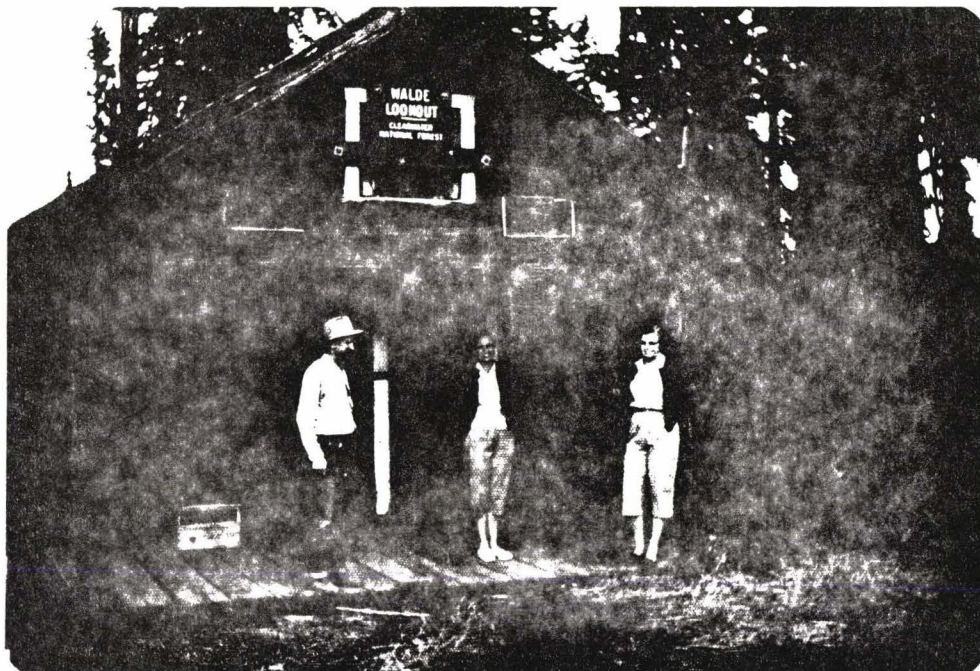
The Parry family became inveterate campers and from 1910 to 1916 made annual summer excursions into the hinterlands of the Bitterroot mountains, going in by a different route each year. Parry also prospected every likely looking spot that he saw. In 1910 they were camped somewhere at the head of a fork of Moose Creek when fires burning in that area blew up and headed directly toward them. They hastily packed up and with their stock took refuge in a nearby lake where they stayed until the fire burning around them cooled down. After the fire subsided the party went on out to Darby, Montana from where Mrs. Parry and 8-year-old daughter took a train back to Kooskia while the men with the horses returned across country to Lowell.

(Source Elmer and Lottie Walde)



WALDE MTN. L.O. 1961

Photo: L. Hartig



WALDE L.O. - CABIN 1961
Photo: L. Hartig

Wildhorse Cabin. SWSE Sec.13, Twp.34N., R.8E. Elev. 1950'

Jess Upham and crew, under direction of Lochsa District Ranger Ralph Hand built the original cabin in 1928. It was a halfway house between the road end at Bimerick Creek and Lochsa Station and was used by crews that maintained the river trail and telephone line and by those employees making winter trips to and from the Station on snowshoes.

When the Selway Forest was split up after the 1934 fire, Wildhorse Creek went to the Middlefork District, on the Nezperce Forest. If the cabin survived the '34 fire it would be some kind of a miracle, however, no one so far contacted knows whether it burned or not. If it did burn, it was rebuilt by the Middlefork District.

In the spring of 1936, I made my first trip to the Lochsa Station and went by way of the river trail. On the way I stopped to investigate a new-looking cabin located a short distance above the trail and a hundred feet or so south of Wildhorse Creek. The log building, about 14'x16' in size, was well constructed with a roofed over, floored, porch in front. It was well lighted with windows on two or three sides, had a hardwood floor, storage cabinets and was completely equipped for use. From the neat appearance it seemed to have been recently occupied. I was, however, struck by the danger of fire from the clutter of building debris about the cabin exterior.

I do not remember seeing the building on my next trip over the trail in 1943, and if it was there the Lochsa District made no use of it. By 1943 the road was passable to Tumble Creek so maintenance work was done out of Bimerick and Beaver Flat cabins. The telephone line was abandoned in 1946 or '47 and snowshoe trips were made in one day or in a pinch, Beaver Flat was used for overnight stops.

(Source-Ralph Hand, Lloyd McHone, Russell Stadtman, Hartig)

Willow Ridge Lookout. Sec. 13, Twp.35N., R.8E. Elev. *4600'

The point is located at the end of Trail #237, going in by way of Fish Creek. It was used as a lookout for the first time in 1929 when Ranger Ralph Hand, who was putting in his last season on Lochsa District, set a tent camp and one man on the ridge. For communication a telephone line was strung in from Obia cabin.

By 1930 Ranger Fred Shaner had taken over the District and under his direction, a pre-cut, L-4 lookout cabin was packed to the ridge and Earnest Hartman with Harry Chenoweth went up and put it together. It was built on log sills flat on the ground, no understory or tower. The Station was manned each season until 1934 when the big fire reduced the cabin to ashes. Willow Ridge was never manned again, mainly due to lack of anything to protect.

(Source-Ralph Hand, Fred Shaner, Earnest Hartman, Harry Chenoweth, Roy Lewis)

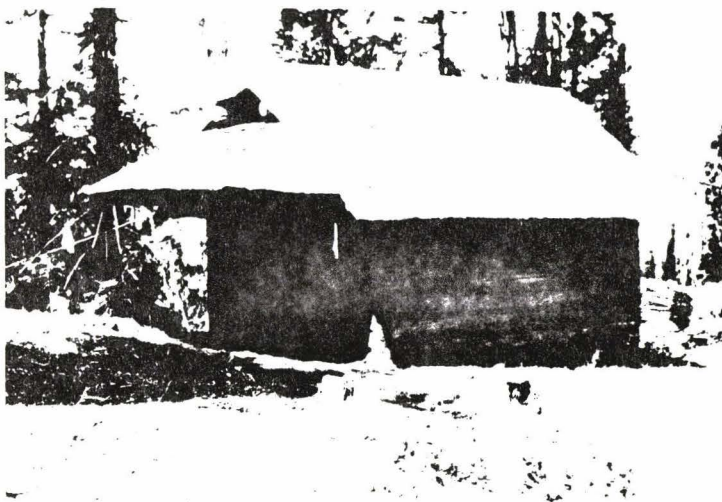
Woodrat Mtn. Lookout. SENE Sec. 24, Twp.33N., R5E.

Although located on State land, all improvements at Woodrat were built by and manned by the Forest Service. It is not known when the point was first used as a lookout but in 1925, before there was a road to Woodrat, Ranger Jack Parsell of the Middlefork District, had a one room 14'x16' log cabin built there for lookout quarters at a cost of \$309.00. The cabin was located about 100 feet North of the mountain top. At about the same time a 40-foot high tower with observatory was built on the top of the ridge. There is no cost record for the tower. Woodrat went to the Nezperce Forest when the Selway was split up in 1934-35.

The log cabin and tower were manned seasonally until 1946 when the Nezperce Forest replaced them with a L-4 cabin on a 41-foot high, treated timber tower at a cost of \$3312.00. Former Lochsa District Dispatcher Carl Hager was supervisory carpenter on the construction job. After the new cabin was occupied the log cabin became a place for equipment storage. Woodrat came to Lochsa District by boundary adjustment in 1956, and including the old cabin, was still in use in 1966. It has since been abandoned.

At one time there were two telephone lines to Woodrat. One followed a trail from No. One R.S., north to the lookout and the other went in from Pete King via Big Hill. The first was rolled up in the 1940's, but the Big Hill line was used until about 1959 when part of the wire and insulators were used to build a line from Syringa to Smith Creek Work Center and on out to Woodrat. At that time the Lochsa District still maintained a 3 circuit metallic line from Kooskia to Lowell, and what a headache that was. One circuit was for Fenn R.S., one for Lochsa Station, and the third originally built for Pete King Station was turned over to limited private use. When the telephone company built a line up river in the early 1960's, the Forest Service line was sold to the highest bidder. It brought \$1.00, and at that I had to talk the man into bidding.

(Source-Russell Stadtman, Investment Record, Hartig)



Woodrat

WOODRAT L.O. CABIN 1925

Photo: Willie G. Kiele



WOODRAT L.O. CABIN 1925

Ranger Jack Parsell

Photo: Hugh Curry



WOODRAT L.O. 1925
Photo: Willie G. Kiele



WOODRAT L.O. 1966
Photo: L. Hartig

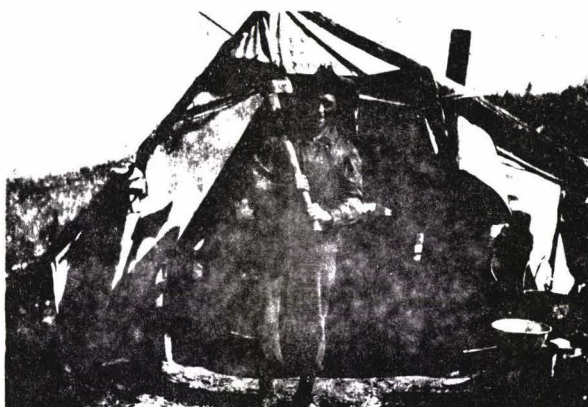
Wounded Doe Ridge. Center Sec. 12, Twp.34N., R.11E. Elev. *7400'

This point was manned for the first time in 1923 when Ranger Ralph Hand set in a tent camp with Jess Mosher holding down the lookout position. He was the same Jess Mosher who, the year before, had been lookout-patrolman at a camp in the head of Wounded Doe Creek below End Butte. (see End Butte) Communication with the lookout was established by stringing emergency wire to the Fish Lake-McConnell Mtn. telephone line by the shortest route. After Mosher was moved from the point that fall, it was to be fifteen years before the place was again manned. In the meantime it had been set up in the Lochsa District fire plan as an emergency lookout.

It was 1939 when Ranger Hans Roeffler manned Wounded Doe Ridge by setting up a tent camp with Keith McGee as lookout. This time communication was supposed to be by SPF radio, but due to malfunctions and static electricity interference, it didn't work out to well. However, he did get through the fire season. McGee and Daland Broker, who was on Rhoda Point, arranged mirror flash signals to communicate after a fashion. The point was never manned again after 1939 and was eventually dropped from the fire plan.

In 1956 boundary change gave Wounded Doe to Moose Creek District on the Nezperce National Forest.

(Source-Ralph Hand, Jess Mosher, Daland Broker, Les Felton)



Wounded Doe Ridge 1923

WOUNDED DOE RIDGE. 1923
J. Mosher - lookout



Wounded Doe Ridge 1939

WOUNDED DOE RIDGE L.O. 1939

Keith McGee - lookout

Photo: Les Felton

Other Cabins

Three Forks Ranger Station. NE Sec.25, Twp.33N., R.12E. (Approximate)

Sometime around 1900, give or take a year or so, Harry and Fred Schissler of Elk City built a log cabin about a mile up the North Fork of Moose Creek from its junction with main Moose Creek. They made their home there for several years. By 1909, when Ranger Adolph Weholt mentions the place as the old Schissler cabin, it had been abandoned and the Forest Service began to make use of it.

By the fall of 1909, a trail up the Selway River reached the place. In 1910, the cabin location was used as a base by fire crews who fought fires in that area. Then in 1912 a telephone line built up the Selway from O'Hara provided communication with the outside world. A 1913 map refers to it as Three Forks Ranger Station. What District Three Forks was on during the early 1900s is not known nor is it known that back country Districts were named or even had well de-fined boundaries. From sketchy information turned up, it seems that for several years Three Forks was tied in with the Fish Lake unit. In the early 1900's, political appointed Rangers William Parry and Ben McConnell made fire patrols and blazed trails in the Fish Lake-Three Forks area.

In his 1904-05 diary Jim Stuart records that he and other rangers patrolled and fought fire from Coolwater eastward to Warm Springs Creek and southward to Three Links Creek and Three Forks.

In 1910 Ranger Ray Fitting was sent from a just controlled fire near Sixty Two R.S. to the Moose Creek fire. In his story of the fire he mentions the old Schissler cabin but barely indicates that it may have been other than a temporary fire crew base. He says that the fire burned logs, that "the fellows" had cut for a barn near the cabin. Does that familiar term have the connection of Forest Service workers?

Other than the above, little has been learned of the status of Three Forks R.S. prior to 1913. In the spring of that year Ranger Ray Fitting with a three man crew including Ed Gilroy, who gave the account, maintained trail and telephone line from Three Links Creek up the Selway and Moose Cr. to Three Forks R.S. They then returned to Three Links and built a telephone line up the ridge to Sixty Two cabin. Ranger Fitting spent the remainder of the summer with a six man crew, including Gilroy, building trail in the upper Warm Springs Cr. country. Ed states that Three Forks was on the Fish Lake District both in 1913 and '14, and that the District extended from there to the Lochsa river and from Stanley Butte to Warm Springs Cr.

Fitting though seemingly had little need for a Ranger Station, he, like other Forest Service employees furnished his own saddle and pack stock, food, bedding and cooking utensils. The Forest Service furnished tools and a 7'x9' tent for each two men and furnished food only on project fires. Office work consisted of submitting time and fire reports to the Supervisor's Office at the end of each month, a task that took possibly a day or so at most. With a setup like that, a Ranger Station, it seems would have served little purpose.

Gilroy worked on the District again in 1914 when he and Al Peterson were stationed at Sixty Two as lookout and smokechaser. As far as Ed knew they were the first

regular season lookouts ever, on the Fish Lake District. Gilroy also stated that for what little need Ranger Fitting had for a Ranger Station he used Three Forks cabin. 1914 was Fittings last year on the Selway Forest and it was also the last year that Three Forks was on the Fish Lake District.

During the winter of 1914-15 District boundaries were reshaped. The Sixty Two area went to O'Hara District. The southeastern boundary of Fish Lake District was established at the junction of North Fork of Moose Cr. and Rhoda Cr. and up those streams to Army Mule Saddle and East Peak respectively. The Fish Lake District Ranger in 1915 established his seasonal headquarters in a tent camp at Castle Butte. For the first time the District included area on both sides of the Lochsa River.

It is not known what District acquired Three Forks R.S. It is next heard of in 1920 when Moose Creek District was created with Jack Parsell, back from the war, named District Ranger. He made his headquarters at Three Forks for one year only and in 1921 set up a tent station at the site of present Moose Cr. R.S., where he put up the first log building which served as commissary, cookhouse and office. The building is possibly still in use today.

Although the 1910 fire burned a barn under construction at the Three Forks site as well as the trapper cabin where John Shean and E.A. Williams lie buried, the Schissler cabin miraculously escaped destruction. Its ultimate end has not been learned.

(Source-Jack Parsell, Ed Gilroy, Otto Robinette, Jim Stuart's diary, Ray Fitting's story of the 1910 fire, Albert Cochrell)



THREE FORKS R.S. 1910

Photo: C.H. Shatluck

A 1913 map prepared from a 1911 Geological survey shows cabins of unknown origin, one on the north side of Old Man Creek where Trail #206 crosses, another between Two Lakes on Trail #218 and a third on the flat between the junction of Lizard and Rhoda Creek.

Martin Stanley, a trapper in the area before 1910, had at least two cabins. One on the shore of Mud Lake in Sec.29, Twp.34N., R.11E. It is also shown on the map and is the only one I have seen. He had another cabin at the mouth of Surprise Creek that burned in the 1910 fire.

In 1913 Ed Gilroy saw two cabins on the north shore of Fish Lake Creek not too far from the waters edge. No one contacted has any idea of their origin. Another cabin below Fish Lake was located in about the SE Sec.26, Twp.35N., R.11E., north of Trail #211. It was nearly hidden from view from the trail by a huge boulder and appeared to have been placed there with the intent of concealment in mind. I saw it in the 1940s and it was still in fair condition.

The Lewis-Clark highway covers the remains of a cabin on the Lochsa River in NW Sec. 9, Twp.35N., R.10E. Its origin is not known. The cabin had been burned and the only evidence of its existence was a heap of stones apparently the remnant of a fireplace and the outline of the cabin on the ground.

The old log cabin at Two Shadows was built on a mining claim by H.O. Miller in about 1918-20. Miller kept the claim for 6 or 7 years then gave it up. Arthur Russell then filed the claim and with his wife and son lived there until 1935 or 36. They did more gardening than mining and sold produce to Kooskia grocers. Kamiah boy scouts had a special use on the cabin for a few years in the 1950's. A few squatters moved in on occasion but none stayed very long. The old cabin was saved from firey end in 1960 at the request of Kooskia-Kamiah Garden Club.

The burned cabin next to the Miller cabin was a special use to Fenn-Trenary families of Kooskia for many years. It was burned by a pyromaniac in the mid 60s.

A trapper shelter on Deadman Creek can hardly be dignified by calling it a cabin. The trapper was found dead in the shelter in 1908, hence the name of the creek.

There were a few miners' cabins in the Pete King Creek-Walde area, some of them used quite recently and there are doubtless others that I have never heard of or forgotten.



DEADMAN CR. CABIN 1909
Adolph Weholt in front of cabin
Photo: Carl Weholt



TWO SHADOWS CABIN May, 1968

Canyon Creek Prison Camp

The camp was established in 1935-36. The prisoner complex was at the mouth of Canyon Creek on the upper side of the road and included quarters for prisoners, messhall, recreation center, water system and a few other smaller utility buildings. Housing for administrative people was on both sides of the road where Apgar campground is now. There were six or seven dwellings in all.

Purpose of the camp was to house Federal prisoners and overhead who were to work on Lewis-Clark highway construction. At the peak of occupation there were about 150 prisoners at the camp. This would have been a few years after the camp was established.

Expectation that the road would rapidly be pushed up the river soon faded. Construction was mostly in solid rock and equipment furnished for such work was inadequate. In all perhaps a mile or two of road was pioneered, this included some work done by a WPA crew. Prisoners were pulled off construction and worked at improving existing road where they made a much better showing.

About the time World War Two started, the camp for Federal prisoners was shut down. It was reopened a short time later and manned with Japanese internees. They were there until the war ended. They had a minimum of mechanized equipment, so most of their work was by hand and confined to improvement of existing road.

The camp was shut down for good in 1945, and buildings gradually dismantled or, as in the case of some of the dwellings, moved away intact. The last dwelling was moved from the site sometime after Lochsa District headquarters was moved to Kooskia in 1957. Other Federal agencies acquired most of the buildings.

IN APPRECIATION

TO THOSE WHO MADE THIS RECORD POSSIBLE

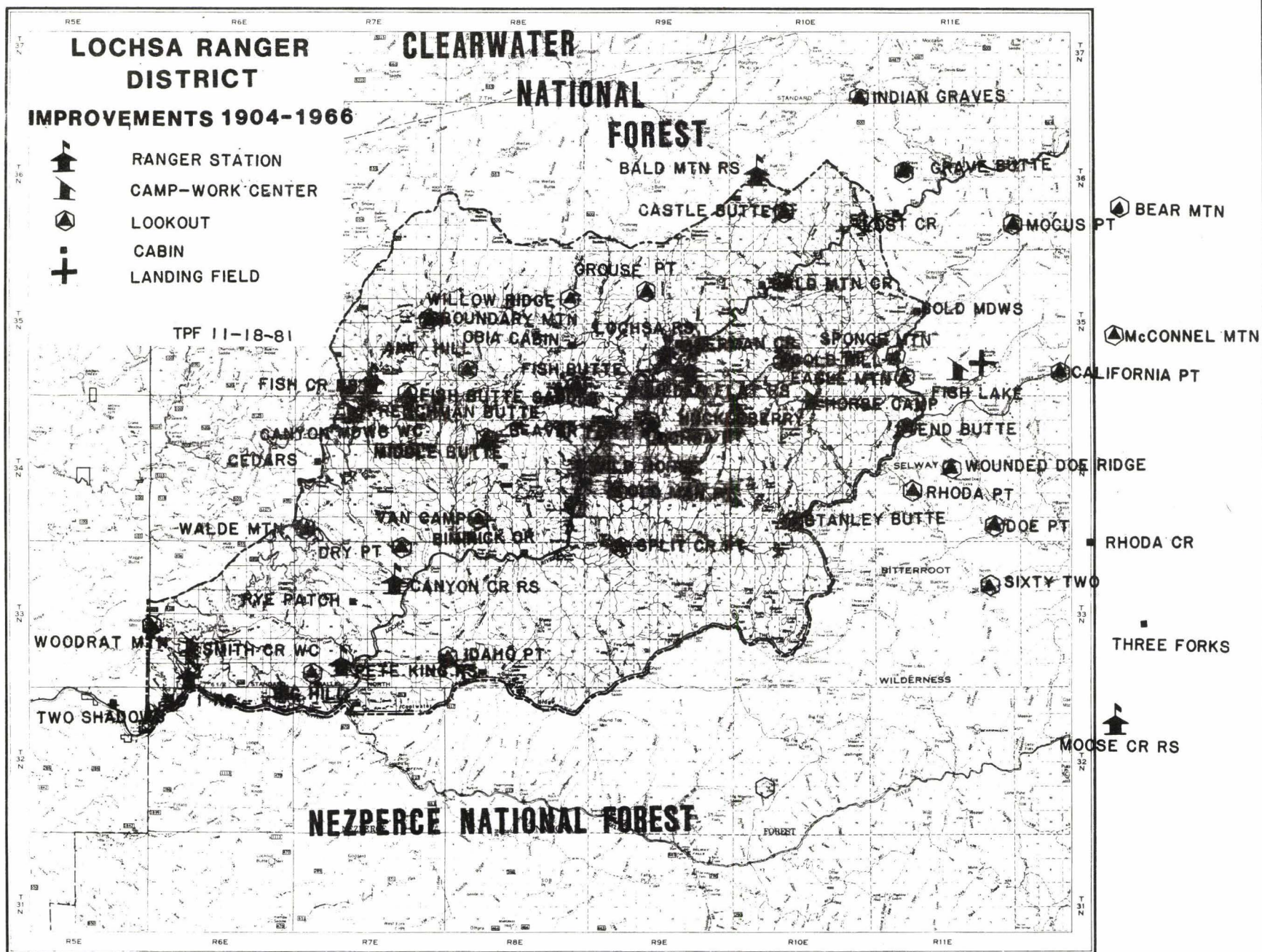
Apgar, Bill*	Smokechaser, 1918
Baldwin, Fred	Construction, 1930 and in the 1960s
Broker, Daland	Smokechaser, 1937-41
Chamberlain, Don*	Service & Supply, Pete King, 1924-31
Chenoweth, Harry	Construction & Smokechaser, 1925-32
Cochrell, Albert*	Forest Supervisor-Nezperce N.F. (Middlefork District) 1944-55
Cox, Delbert*	Dispatcher, 1933
Davis, Jim*	Foreman, Packer, 1960
Dennison, Bill	Smokechaser, 1930s
Eagan, Eva	Her husband, the late Fitz Eagan was Fish Lake District Ranger 1915-19
Evenson, Millard*	Ranger, 1937
Felton, Lester	Smokechaser, Dispatcher, 1935-40
Ferguson, Ray*	Middlefork Timber Sales, 1923-24 Middlefork Ranger, 1925-33
Fitting, Edith	Her husband, the late Ray Fitting was Fish Lake District Ranger 1908-14
Flynn, Oral*	Crewman, 1909, Packer, 1918-25
Flodberg, Herb*	Ranger, 1942
Gaffney, John*	Middlefork Ranger, 1936-39
Gilroy, Ed	Crewman & Smokechaser, 1913-14
Godwin, Jack*	Packer & Assistant ranger, 1926-35 & 1940
Hand, Ralph*	Ranger, 1923-29
Hartman, Earnest	Construction, about 1929-33
Johnson, Owen	Smokechaser, 1927-34
Kolmorgan, Al	Smokechaser, 1920, Assistant Ranger, 1921 Ranger, 1922

Lewis, Roy*	Ranger, 1928-36
McHone, Lloyd	Smokechaser, 1928-36
McHone, Glenn	Moose Cr. Dist. Smokechaser in the 1930s
Monroe, Bessie	Her late husband, Roy Monroe was Ranger in the Bald Mountain area 1910-13
Montgomery, Elmer	Smokechaser, 1921-22
Mosher, Jess	Smokechaser 1922-24
Parsell, Jack*	Lookout 1917, Moose Cr. Ranger 1920-22 Middlefork Ranger 1923-24
Renshaw, Welford*	Smokechaser 1914-15
Robinette, Otto	Guard 1905
Roeffler, Hans*	Ranger 1938-41
Shaner, Fred*	Ranger 1930-31
Space, Ralph*	Timber Survey 1924-Supervisor Clearwater National Forest 1954-63
Stadtman, Russell	Construction & Smokechaser 1929-37
Urquhart, James*	On Selway Forest's Supervisor's Staff in the 1930s
Walde, Elmer	Construction & Smokechaser 1919-20 Ranger 1921
Wasson, Norma	Clerk-Receptionist, Kooskia R.S. 1957-68. She loaned me the diary of her uncle the late James Stuart who was a ranger in the Fish Lake country from 1904-06
Weholt, Carl	Smokechaser & Construction 1919-22
Wohlen, Paul*	Cook Mtn. Smokechaser 1914, Cook Mtn. Ranger 1916-17.

*Forest Service Career

Unless otherwise noted, above dates include only service on the Lochsa or Fish Lake Districts and that part of the Middlefork District acquired by Lochsa through boundary change.

I am especially grateful to Tom Farbo who after his recent retirement from the Clearwater National Forest generously offered to help complete the history. He edited the manuscript, reduced maps to suitable size, prepared the layout and helped round up missing photographs.



*L-4 was a symbol used to identify the cabin type. Although I never did know for sure I always assumed that the letter indicated "lookout" and the numeral indicated the plan number as L-4 superceded the L-3 plan. I never heard of an L-1 or 2 plan.

L-4s were a standard design and while from time to time there were minor changes in the plan the designation remained L-4 until at least the mid-1950s and perhaps longer.

Lumber for the cabins in Region One was precut at a central location where all needed material was assembled, packaged and labeled. Like packages were interchangeable. This cabin was about 14 feet square and glass enclosed with windows set on a low wall (about 30 inches). Outside shutters hinged above the windows could be lowered and fastened on the inside to protect glass and deter entry by unauthorized people during the off season. When raised, shutters aided visibility by eliminating sun glare from the cabin interior. Unless securely fastened in place either when raised or lowered a shutter, during a high wind could be ripped from its morings and sailed over the mountain sometimes for an incredible half mile or so.

Cabin furnishings were standard and consisted of an iron Bosworth (and later Osborne) map-board set up in the middle of the floor, a night map light usually powered by last year's telephone batteries, a telephone mounted on the iron map support post. Two eight inch high iron cots hinged to a wall so they could be folded up out of the way, a table also hinged to a wall so it could be lowered if desired, Two chairs, a wood burning cook stove, woodbox and two or three storage cupboards for dishes and food supplies. Stove, cots and mapboard were all wired to the cabin lightning protection system.

Furnishings were kept at or below window level, these only obstruction to a 360 degree view from the map-board were corner cabin supports and the stovepipe. To permit azimuth readings at those points the map-board was made laterally adjustable.

Occasionally, flooring, and door or window trim lumber for pre-1930 back country log cabins was brought in by pack train, mostly it was whip-sawed at the building site, by two men working in a specially designed pit and frame as shown in the photo. One man stood on the log and pulled the cumbersome saw up, there was no cutting done on the up stroke, the pit-man then pulled the saw downward which is when the cutting was done.

After a log was rolled onto the rack it was squared by cutting to chalk line marks. Once squared each board or plank was chalk marked for desired thickness and sawn off the squared log. A high degree of expertise was needed to follow the chalk line mark and turn out lumber of even thickness. Floor lumber was left rough. Door and window trim was smoothed with an ordinary carpenter's hand plane. There were no soft jobs in this type of lumber making.

Some of the earliest cabins had dirt floors, others were floored with split cedar cedar plank called puncheon nailed to the floor joists. Puncheon floors were uneven and drafty, the only good thing that can be said about them is that not much sweeping was needed, most dirt fell through the cracks.

When I first went to work for the Forest Service in 1923 nearly all back country district employees wore "corked" (calked) boots both while on the job and around the house. The soft wood floors didn't stand up to well under calk traffic. At about the beginning of the 1930s someone came up with the idea of installing hardwood maple flooring in all new and most existing buildings.

The change to hardwood, while intended to lessen floor damage from steel calks, took a different turn. Rangers, reluctant to have the new, good looking floors marred, banned wearing calks indoors as much as practicable. Lookouts and other employees as well, taking pride in the new floors refrained from wearing calks indoors as much as possible. Most workers acquired a pair of heavy duty slippers, which at that time were called gaiters, for indoor wear. The result has been that even today, hardwood floors that remain, show surprisingly little sign of calk traffic.